**Term:** Thirdness

**Quote:** …Thirdness, or that which is such as it is in bringing a second into relation to a third. That thirdness cannot be reduced to any combination of secondnesses follows at once from the fact that combination is itself a triadic relation; so that a combination of secondnesses would itself involve an irreducible thirdness. On the other hand, [there] can be no irreducible Fourthness or mode of being defined by a relation between more than three correlates, since it is easily shown that every such relation is definable as a triadic relation among triadic relations.


**References:** MS [R] 914:5

**Date of Quote:** 1904

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-firstness-secondness-thirdness-and-reducibility-fourthness-r-8