Term: Practical Belief

Quote: A state of belief in a proposition is such a state that the believer would on every pertinent occasion act according to the logical consequence of that proposition. He has a habit, and the proposition describes in abstract terms what sort of a habit it is. But for genuine belief, the man must not only have the habit, but must be aware of having it, and must be fully satisfied with having it. I will not say that no more than that is involved in saying that a man believes a proposition, but I think we may say that that constitutes practical belief.


References: MS [R] 873:4 (var.); HP 2:912

Date of Quote: 1901