Term: Induction

Quote: ... An Induction can hardly be sound or at least is to be suspected usually, unless it has been preceded by a Retractive reasoning to the same general effect. Induction chiefly serves to render more certain ideas that have already been otherwise suggested. I use “Induction” in a wider sense than usual. It is usually regarded as a reasoning by which one passes from asserting something of a number of single things to asserting the same of the whole class to which those things belong. I give the definition a somewhat different turn, at least, and throw much light upon Induction by defining it as any reasoning from a sample to the whole sampled.


References: NEM 3:178

Date of Quote: 1911

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letter-j-h-kehler-2