Term: Hypothesis [as a form of reasoning]

Quote: ... the division of the elementary kinds of reasoning into three heads was made by me in my first lectures and was published in 1869 in Harris’s *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. I still consider that it had a sound basis. Only in almost everything I printed before the beginning of this century I more or less mixed up Hypothesis and Induction ... .

The general body of logicians had also at all times come very near recognizing the trichotomy. They only failed to do so by having so narrow and formalistic a conception of inference (as necessarily having formulated judgments for its premises) that they did not recognize Hypothesis (or, as I now term it, *retroduction*) as an inference ... .


References: CP 8.227-228

Date of Quote: 1910 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-paul-carus-1