

'Law of Habit' (pub. 20.10.15-16:56). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-logic-chapter-i-thinking-cerebration>.

Term: Law of Habit

Quote: According to the universal law of habit, all vital processes whatever tend to become easier on repetition. (J. J. Murphy. *Habit and Intelligence*. 1869. Chap. XV. Vol. I. p. 169.). The nervous system is particularly susceptible to habit, and along whatever path a nervous discharge has once taken place, along that path a new discharge is the more likely to take place. It is an essential characteristic of this law that it is not absolute.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1879). *Logic. Chapter I. Of Thinking as Cerebration*. MS [R] 748a; MS [W] 350.

References: W 4:39

Date of 1879

Quote:

Editorial Joseph John Murphy's original formulation, cited in W 4: "The definition of habit, and its primary law, is that all vital actions tend to repeat themselves; or, if they are not such as can repeat themselves, they tend to become easier on repetition"

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