That our thoughts are signs is an old and familiar doctrine. I show that it is only in so far as thoughts are signs, and particularly [...] symbols, that they become subjects of logic; and further that the rules of logic are applicable to all symbols. Accordingly by regarding logic as a science of signs or formal semeiotic, and in the main as a science of symbols, or formal symbolic, we accurately cover its subject matter, and at the same time insure ourselves against all risk of being led astray into psychology. The word formal, in this connection, signifies that only the general conditions to which signs ought to conform are to be considered.


References: MS [R] 425:117

Date of Quote: 1902

Editorial Annotations: From an earlier/discarded draft

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-minute-logic-chapter-i-intended-characters-treatise-31