Term: Analogy

Quote: The formula of analogy is as follows:

$S', S'', S'''$ are taken at random from such a class that their characters at random are such as $P', P'', P''''$.

$t$ is $P', P''$, and $P''''$.

$S', S'', S'''$ are $q$;

\[\therefore t \text{ is } q.\]

Such an argument is double. It combines the two following:

1

$S', S'', S'''$ are taken as being $P', P'', P''''$.

$S', S'', S'''$ are $q$.

\[\therefore (\text{By induction}) \ P', P'', P'''' \text{ is } q.\]

$t$ is $P', P'', P''''$.

\[\therefore (\text{Deductively}) \ t \text{ is } q.\]

2

$S', S'', S'''$ are, for instance, $P', P'', P''''$.

$t$ is $P', P'', P''''$.

\[\therefore (\text{By hypothesis}) \ t \text{ has the common characters of } S', S'', S'''.\]

$S', S'', S'''$ are $q$.

\[\therefore (\text{Deductively}) \ t \text{ is } q.\]

Owing to its double character, analogy is very strong with only a moderate number of instances.


References: W 2:46-47; CP 2.513

Date of Quote: 1867

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-natural-classification-arguments