Term: Analogy

Quote: The formula of analogy is as follows:

\[ S', S'', S''', t \]

are taken at random from such a class that their characters at random are such as \( P', P'', P'''. \)
\( t \) is \( P', P'', P'''. \)
\( S', S'', S''' \) are \( q; \).
\( \therefore t \) 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 \( q; \).
\( \therefore (\text{By induction}) \ P', P'', P'''. \) is \( q. \)
\( t \) is \( P', P'', P'''. \)
\( \therefore (\text{Deductively}) \ t \) is \( q. \)

2

\[ S', S'', S''' \] are, for instance, \( P', P'', P'''. \)
\( t \) is \( P', P'', P'''. \)
\( \therefore (\text{By hypothesis}) \ t \) has the common characters of \( S', S'', S'''. \)
\( S', S'', S''' \) are \( q; \).
\( \therefore (\text{Deductively}) \ t \) 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