Term: Analogy

Quote: The formula of analogy is as follows:

S', S", and 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", and S''' are q;

∴ 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.

∴ (By induction) P', P", P''' is q.

t is P', P", P'''.

∴ (Deductively) t is q.

2

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

t is P', P", P''';

∴ (By hypothesis) t has the common characters of S', S", S'''.

S', S", S''' are q.

∴ (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