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

$S', S'', S'''$ are $q$. ••. (By induction) $P', P'', P'''$ is $q$. $t$ is $P', P'', P'''$. ••. (Deductively) $t$ is $q$.

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

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$S', S'', S'''$ are taken as being $P', P'', P'''$. $S', S'', S'''$ are $q$. ••. (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