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 $q$;

$.\cdot. t$ 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 $q$.

$.\cdot. (By induction) $P'$, $P''$, $P'''$ is $q$.

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

$.\cdot. (Deductively) t$ is $q$.

2

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

$t$ is $P'$, $P''$, $P'''$;

$.\cdot. (By hypothesis) t$ has the common characters of $S'$, $S''$, $S'''$.

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

$.\cdot. (Deductively) t$ 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