

'Induction' (pub. 03.02.13-19:26). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-neglected-argument-reality-god-g>.

Term: Induction

Quote: The true guarantee of the validity of induction is that it is a method of reaching conclusions which, if it be persisted in long enough, will assuredly correct any error concerning future experience into which it may temporarily lead us. This it will do not by virtue of any deductive necessity (since it never uses all the facts of experience, even of the past), but because it is manifestly adequate, with the aid of retroduction and of deductions from retroductive suggestions, to discovering any *regularity* there may be among experiences, while *utter irregularity is not surpassed in regularity by any other relation of parts to whole*, and is thus readily discovered by induction to exist where it does exist, and the amount of departure therefrom to be mathematically determinable from observation where it is imperfect.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1908 [c.]). *A Neglected Argument for the Reality of God (G)*. MS [R] 842.

References: CP 2.769

Date of 1908 [c.]

Quote:

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