Term: Material Cause

Quote: If the cause [...] is a part of the causatum, in the sense that the causatum could not logically be without the cause, it is called an internal cause; otherwise, it is called an external cause. If the cause is of the nature of an individual thing or fact, and the other factor requisite to the necessitation of the causatum is a general principle, I would call the cause a minor, or individuating, or perhaps a physical cause. [—] The individuating internal cause is called the material cause. Thus the integrant parts of a subject or fact form its matter, or material cause.


References: EP 2:315; NEM 4:252-3

Date of Quote: 1904 [c.]