
**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.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904 [c.]). *New Elements (Kaina stoicheia)*. MS [R] 517.

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

**Date of Quote:** 1904 [c.]

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-15