Term: Fallibilism

Quote: For years [—] I used for myself to collect my ideas under the designation fallibilism; and indeed the first step toward finding out is to acknowledge you do not satisfactorily know already; so that no blight can so surely arrest all intellectual growth as the blight of cocksureness; and ninety-nine out of every hundred good heads are reduced to impotence by that malady - of whose inroads they are most strangely unaware!

Indeed, out of a contrite fallibilism, combined with a high faith in the reality of knowledge, and an intense desire to find things out, all my philosophy has always seemed to me to grow... .


References: CP 1.13-14

Date of Quote: 1897 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-notes-religious-and-scientific-infallibilism

Commens: Digital Companion to C. S. Peirce (http://www.commens.org)