**Term:** Inference

**Quote:** *Reasoning* is the process by which we attain a belief which we regard as the result of previous knowledge. [—]

Again, a given belief may be regarded as the effect of another given belief, without our seeming to see clearly why or how. Such a process is usually called an *inference*; but it ought not to be called a *rational inference*, or *reasoning*. A blind force constrains us. [—]

The word *illation* signifies a process of inference. Reasoning, in general, is sometimes called *ratiocination*. *Argumentation* is the expression of a reasoning.


**References:** EP 2:11-12

**Date of Quote:** 1895

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-short-logic-2