Term: Continuum

Quote: Personally, I agree entirely with James, against Dedekind’s view; and hold that there would be no actually existent points in an existent continuum, and that if a point were placed in a continuum it would constitute a breach of the continuity. Of course, there is a possible, or potential, point-place wherever a point might be placed; but that which only *may be* is necessarily thereby *indefinite*, and as such, and in so far, and in those respects, as it is such, it is not subject to the principle of contradiction, just as the negation of a may-be, which is of course a *must-be*, (I mean that if “S *may be* P” is untrue, then “S *must be* non-P” is true), in those respects in which it is such, is not subject to the principle of excluded middle.


References: CP 6.182

Date of Quote: 1911 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-sketch-logical-critic