

Real Definition

1904 | Sketch of Dichotomic Mathematics | NEM 4:285

A *Definition* is either *Nominal* or *Real*. [—] A *Real Definition* analyzes a conception. As Aristotle well says (and his authority is well-nigh absolute upon a question of logical terminology), a definition asserts the existence of nothing. A definition would consist of two members, of which the first should declare that any object to which the *definitum*, or defined term, should be applicable would possess the characters involved in the definition; while the second should declare that to any object which should possess those characters the *definitum* would be applicable. And any proposition consisting of two members of this description and really contributing to the development of the thought would be a *Real Definition*.