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Type: Manuscript
Author: Peirce, Charles Sanders
Title: Lecture I [R]
Manuscript Id: MS [R] 449
Year: 1903

Abstract / Robin Catalogue:

Description: A. MS., notebook, G-1903-2a, pp. 37-61.

Published, in part, as 1.611-615 and 8.176 (except 176n3) (pp. 37-49 and 51-53). Unpublished: criticism of Sigwart and the notion of “logisches Gefühl.” Logic embraces methodeutic, critic, and the doctrine of signs (speculative grammar), with the ultimate purpose of the logician being the working out of a theory regarding the advancement of knowledge. Speculative grammar is neither psychology nor epistemology. Erkenntnislehre is mainly metaphysics. CSP agrees with those metaphysicians who insist that metaphysics must rest upon logic.

Essential Peirce, vol. 2:

Composed at the end of the summer 1903 and delivered on 23 November 1903, this is the first of eight lectures Peirce gave at the Lowell Institute in Boston under the general title “Some Topics of Logic bearing on Questions now Vexed. ‘1 In this lecture, Peirce refutes “a malady” that “has broken out in science,” namely the idea then in vogue that rationality rests on a feeling of logicality, and that it is futile to try to find an objective distinction between good and bad reasoning. On the contrary, Peirce claims, that distinction is not at all a matter of what we approve of, but is a question of fact. Good reasoning is based on a method that “tends to carry us toward the truth more speedily than we could otherwise progress.” Peirce discusses the significance of even a slight tendency to guess correctly, arguing that, given the right method, that is all that is required to assure progress toward the truth. He continues the argument, just made in the Harvard Lectures, that reasoning is a form of controlled conduct, and thus has an ethical dimension. Peirce concludes with a discussion of the scope of logic, which he now equates with semiotics as a whole.

Keywords: Right Reasoning, Ultimate Aim, Ideal, Reason, Feeling of Logicality, Growth, Victoria Lady Welby, Meaning, Grades of Meaning, Methodeutic, Advancement

of Knowledge, Critic, Logic, Epistemology, Speculative Grammar, Quasi-sign,
Hardness

Language: English