Term: Retroduction

Quote: … the second figure reads:

Anything of the nature of M would have the character {p}, taken haphazard,
S has the character {p};
∴ Provisionally, we may suppose S to be of the nature of M.

Still more convenient is the following conditional form of statement:

If {m} were true, {p}, {p}', {p}" would follow as miscellaneous consequences -

But {p}, {p}', {p}" are in fact true;
∴ Provisionally, we may suppose that {m} is true.

This kind of reasoning is very often called *adopting a hypothesis for the sake of its explanation of known facts*.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1898). *Cambridge Lectures on Reasoning and the Logic of Things: Types of Reasoning*. MS [R] 441.

References: RLT 140

Date of Quote: 1898

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-cambridge-lectures-reasoning-and-logic-things-types-reasoning-2