

**THE PROCESS OF
ARGUMENT: A
CONTRIBUTION TO LOGIC**

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The process of argument: a contribution to logic by Alfred Sidgwick

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ALFRED SIDGWICK

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A CONTRIBUTION TO LOGIC

BY

ALFRED SIDGWICK

AUTHOR OF

"FALLACIES," "DISTINCTION, AND THE CRITICISM OF BELIEFS, ETC.

LONDON

ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK

1893

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PREFACE

THIS book, like my former ones, has for its aim the extension of a knowledge of the more useful parts of Logic. It is written for those who are interested rather in the war against fallacy than in the grammatical inquiries which form so large a part of the Logic taught in the text-books.

Some care has therefore been taken to use words as far as possible in their everyday sense. Wherever it has seemed more convenient to depart at all from the commonest custom, reasons are given and the departure is left optional. No attempt is made to force the reader to accept hard doctrines or strange definitions, which are not yet his own.

It is specially in regard to the meaning of technical terms that this negative mode of treatment shows itself. In Logic, as in other subjects, the leading terms are capable of better and worse definition, and it is not unusual to find that doctors differ on the question which definitions are best. In all such cases the aim of this book is to help the beginner to improve his own first notions for himself, rather than to get him to accept any ready-made ones which happen to seem satisfactory to some particular school of thought.

Appendix A is part of an article contributed to *Mind*, which the Editor kindly allows me to reprint. Special thanks are due to Mr. Carveth Read for the many improvements he has helped me to make throughout.

JULY 1893.

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
1. INTRODUCTORY	I
2. FALSE "FACTS" AND FALSE INFERENCE	12
3. GROUNDS OF INFERENCE	21
4. GENERALISATION, ANALOGY, AND CIRCUM- STANTIAL EVIDENCE	34
5. THE DISCOVERY OF UNDERLYING THEORIES	47
6. SYLLOGISM, OR INFERENCE IN THE ABSTRACT	60
7. KINDS OF GENERALISATION	77
8. OBSERVATION AND GENERALISATION	91
9. GENERALISATION AND CRITICISM	108
10. THE NOTION OF A "CAUSE"	130
11. THE SEARCH FOR A CAUSAL EXPLANATION	149
12. AGREEMENT AND DIFFERENCE: QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF EVIDENCE	163
13. GENERAL RESULTS	179

APPENDIX

	PAGE
A. NOTES ON THE TECHNICALITIES OF LOGIC	199
B. STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLOGISM	217
C. THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE MAJOR PREMISS	226
D. THE TYPICAL FORM OF SYLLOGISM	228
E. ESSENTIAL RESEMBLANCE AND DIFFERENCE	230

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

IN the following inquiry we shall purposely avoid all direct search for the best definition of the word "Logic." Though this book is certainly meant as a contribution to Logic, it is not meant to contribute to it in that particular way. Interesting though such a question may be, its importance is of a very special and limited kind; and at any rate there is no need to wait for a perfectly comprehensive and final idea of the limits of a subject in order to make a beginning with it. Knowledge of Logic, like other knowledge, may be acquired by degrees.

Some general guiding idea, however, will