

Carnap Project: Benson No. 1927-1-e

Literature Reports:

Physical Concept Formation Karlsruhe i[n] B[reisgau] 1926, G. Braun IV,  
65 pp, DM 1.20  
(1927)  
Rudolf Carnap

The first step of physical concept formation is of a qualitative type; its moments are: thingliness, materiality, effectiveness [efficient causality], inductivity. The second step is of a quantitative type; its moments are: counting and measuring, definition of physical content, introduction of hypotheses, theories, laws. The third step is, finally, of an abstract type; its moments are: four dimensionality of the world process, physical causality, translation back into the qualitative. ("As little as one reproaches the geographer that his naming of cities and mountains is a replacement of actual objects with words and, therefore, a suppression of essential attributes, just as little may one reproach the physicist, since he wants to measure everything, that he replaces the actual objects and qualities with numbers and loses thereby an essential character of them.")

Self Notice.