Lecture 3: What philosophers have to learn from mathematics

1. But what about "Santa Claus"?

2. Knowledge by direct acquaintance

    (a) Sense-data

    (b) The only logically proper names are "I" and "this".

3. Open problem for Russell: Reconstruct objects of the everyday world and of physics ("The relation of sense-data to physics" 1914)

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1. The mathematical standard of intelligibility

    (a) Undercutting one argument for Idealism

    (b) Explication

2. Philosophy as applied logic

    (a) Unrestricted generality

    (b) Philosophy not interested in the *products* of science

    (c) Logical analysis exposes confusions

PP = Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy*

"Common words, even proper names, are usually really descriptions." *PP*, 54

"Every proposition which we can understand must be composed wholly of constituents with which we are acquainted." *PP*, 58

"We must attach *some* meaning to the words we use, if we are to speak significantly and not utter mere noise; and the meaning we attach to our words must be something with which we are acquainted." *PP*, 58

"It will be seen that among the objects with which we are acquainted are not included physical objects (as opposed to sense-data), nor other people's minds. These things are known to us by what I call 'knowledge by description'..." *PP*, 52