

On denoting

Bertrand RUSSELL
1905

Mind, New Series, Vol. 14, No. 56 (Oct., 1905), p. 479-493

489 KNOWLEDGE BY ACQUAINTANCE VS BY DESCRIPTION

we know that the centre of mass of the Solar System at a definite instant is some definite point, and we can affirm a number of propositions about it; but we have no immediate *acquaintance* with this point, which is only known to us by description. The distinction between *acquaintance* and *knowledge about* is the distinction between the things we have presentations of, and the things we only reach by means of denoting phrases.