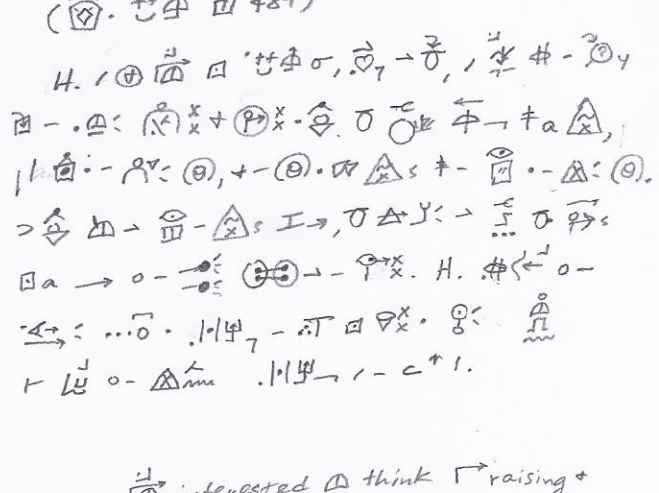
Helmholtz, Hermann von (Treasury of Philosophy p. 489)

Helmholtz was also interested in philosophy which, according to him, is concerned with the inquiry into the cognitive faculties and performances of man. He characterized sensation as a symbol, not an image of the external world, and the world of these symbols as the mirror of the real world. If man learns to read the symbols correctly, he becomes able to arrange his actions in a way that the effects correspond to the aims. Helmholtz conceded the theoretical possibility of interpreting the facts in terms of subjective idealism but held that the realist interpretation is the simpler one.



NOTES: treasury treasure gem chest noun cap interested think raising sustaining p.p. (past future time) philosophy Grk dot (. Latin) love like intense wise. according [.cord heart] concerned -wary [.cern sift] cognitive know [.cogno] adjective sign faculties inner quality indicator easy (downhill) [.facil easy] things (a way of showing plural) perform do man in general man (woman) characterize characteristic [.charac etch] hand shows agency (-fy,-ize). sense (brain on a stick (spinal cord?) as = equal. (I think of the = moving upt down the I) symbol representation thing kind of, related (≈ like seem) (I put in a large triangle △ which conveys solidity to me) real (<) thing [.re] world earth globality indicator man (kind) in general (specific) learn (teach) able can adjective (ability) arrage [order ... items agency s actions act (do [person) -tion effect result cause aim (also) concede [.con with .ced yield] theoretical [Greek theorein look] way adj. ...o possibility ...o possible in a series the last element being open. [facts T true : particles that are done time terms focus things. (also focus words) : subjective I depend hang [.pend] (: objective ☒ object) idealism idea pedestal ideal -ism (believe)