[But the problem of eliminating x appears in a still more interesting form if we equate to 0 a *sum* and to 1 a *product* of functions of x and $\bar{x}$, if we write, that is, for the canonical form of the equations to be resolved,

$$(a+x)(b+\bar{x}) = 0, \quad ax+b\bar{x} = 1,$$

instead of those just given. The rule for the elimination of the quantity to be discarded is then exactly the same for both of these expressions; it is simply: *erase it.* (Of course, if either a or b is zero in the left-hand form or 1 in the right-hand form, x cannot be eliminated, for we have then only one premise instead of two.) Moreover, this same rule applies to the elimination of the unknown quantity in the particular propositions,

$$ax+b\bar{x} \neq 0, \quad 1 \neq (a+x)(b+\bar{x});$$

they give, respectively, $a+b \neq 0$, $1 \neq ab$. The argument is here (1) If some a is x or else some b is non-x, then in any case Something is either a or b; and (2) If not everything is at once either a or x and also b or $\bar{x}$, then, all the more, Not everything is at once a and b. The first of these two forms is probably more convincing intuitively than the second.—C.L.F.]