MAN is a born explorer. The spirit of adventure has existed within him since time began. In studying the history of man we have found him ever trying to extend the frontier line of his abode to find out what is across the river, within the forest or beyond the mountain range. Sometimes this restlessness was through fear; the savage, for instance, in seeking a denser forest or a safer cave. Sometimes this change of abode was to find a soil more fertile or pastures more green; sometimes it was to seek gold and other precious metals; and sometimes it was simply to find out that which he did not know and understand.

1 Presidential address delivered before the thirteenth annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science at Auburn Polytechnic Institute, March 20, 1936.