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CHEMICAL RESEARCH, ITS VALUE AND INFLUENCE UPON RECOVERY¹

By A. G. OVERTON

MANAGER, COKE OVEN AND BY-PRODUCTS OPERATIONS, ALABAMA BY-PRODUCTS CORPORATION, BIRMINGHAM

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.

Now since the entire land surface has been explored and mapped, he has turned to other realms of interest. He is exploring the depths of the sea, giving most interesting descriptions of strange creatures that we never knew existed before. Though dangerous as it may be, the adventurous spirit of man and that burning desire to know things will continue to push him forward until the life within the sea will be as familiar to him as the life upon the land. He is continually building stronger equipment, safer balloons to further explore the infinite space beyond the earth's atmosphere. The desire to know is so great that a feeling of fear does not exist. Instruments have been and are still being constructed that increase a million times

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Current physiological literature.

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