Classification is of the utmost importance in the study of any subject which has to deal with a large number of individuals, in order that the various and complex relations may be shown as far as practicable. A complete and perfect classification will give an epitome of our knowledge in regard to any subject. Such, however, can not be made until there is a thorough understanding of the various properties and characteristics of the objects to be classified, a condition far from being attained in our present imperfect knowledge of the soils. Much valuable work, however, has been done, and the knowledge thus obtained is being used as a means of classifying soils as an aid to further studies. There is no more fundamental problem before the agronomist today than the proper classification and correlation of soils, for this knowledge is essential to the final solution of the most important questions with which he has to deal.

Natural phenomena are always difficult to classify, because the various individuals merge into others by almost or entirely imperceptible gradations. There are no sharp lines of division, and such as are drawn must be more or less arbitrary. This fact is probably as true when applied to soils as to any other of the great groups of natural objects. The soil has been formed from such a great variety of rocks, which have been acted upon by so many different agencies