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understood with the help of a theoretical framework. He was also fortunate to have had access to the largest telescope at that time. It was only around the beginning of the twentieth century that astronomers started building telescopes on the top of mountains, to avoid the effects of turbulence in the lower atmosphere. A set of telescopes were built atop Mount Wilson in the western coast of USA just before Hubble began his work. The discovery of the expansion of the universe therefore is an example of the coming together of theoretical work and innovation in technology in the advancement of science.

This year, we are celebrating the International Year of Astronomy. Four hundred years ago, in 1609, Galileo held his telescope to view the starry heavens, and changed the course of science with his first discoveries. Edwin Hubble's discovery was one of the most startling discoveries that astronomers have ever made, and it is fitting that *Resonance* should discuss the pros and cons of his work in an issue this year.

Hubble was also a great fan of science fiction and Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* was one of his favourites. In the cartoon below, Hubble is portrayed in the role of the famous Captain Nemo, exploring the frontiers of the universe.

