Writings of John Hughlings Jackson," edited by James Taylor, will be presented to the lecturer.

BRIGADIER HUGH W. B. CAIRNS, Nuffield professor of surgery at the University of Oxford and consultant in neurologic surgery to the Royal Army Medical Corps, delivered the Charles H. Mayo Lecture in Surgery of Northwestern University on April 20. His subject was "The Treatment of War Wounds of the Head."

THE Edward K. Dunham Lectures for the promotion of the medical sciences of Harvard University will be given by Dr. Vincent B. Wigglesworth, F.R.S., director of the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Insect Physiology of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His subject will be "The Insect as a Medium for the Study of Physiology." The lectures will be given at five o'clock at the Harvard Medical School on May 7, 9 and 11.

PROFESSOR HARLEY J. VAN CLEAVE, of the University of Illinois, on April 14 addressed the Illinois Dietetics Association in Chicago on "Diseases which Might Become Abundant after the War."

THE Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio, plans to open soon its new laboratory, which has been built at a cost of $2,000,000. A preview has been arranged for the American Institute of Chemists.

THE James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation is offering awards amounting to $20,000 to encourage the preparation and publication of text-books, one on modern machine design and a second on structural design by all processes, including welding, for the instruction and study of undergraduates in engineering. In each class there are offered first, second and third awards of $5,000, $3,000 and $2,000, respectively. Manuscripts should be sent by registered mail or insured express not later than May 15, 1946, to the Secretary of The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, Cleveland 1, Ohio, from whom further information can be obtained.

THE Westinghouse Educational Foundation has provided three fellowships in electron optics at the Ohio State University—one post-doctoral fellowship with a stipend of $3,000 per year and two pre-doctoral fellowships with stipends of $1,000 per year. These fellowships are open to graduates in physics, mathematics and electrical engineering. Application forms may be secured from the Dean of the Graduate School of The Ohio State University, Columbus.

THE Francis Shimer College, Mount Carroll, has received a bequest from the late Dr. Blanche M. Haines of $20,000 to set up the George R. Moore Memorial Fund to be used to improve and promote the teaching of sciences.

DISCUSSION

FOURTH OUTBURST OF NOVA (T) PYXIDIS

DR. ALFRED H. JOY, astronomer at the Mount Wilson Observatory at Pasadena, Calif., has found that the recurrent nova, T Pyxidis, is again increasing in light. This makes the fourth rise to maximum in the past fifty-five years; in 1890, 1902, 1920 and 1945. On the first three occasions the nova attained the seventh magnitude, an increase of seven magnitudes from normal minimum brightness. Dr. Joy reports that by April 3 the nova had increased three magnitudes on the present rise to maximum.

There are not many recurrent novae known. Nova (RS) Ophiuchi has had two outbursts, in 1898 and 1933, while Nova (U) Scorpii has had three outbursts, in 1863, 1906 and 1936.

Dr. Joy finds the background (continuous) spectrum of Nova Pyxidis to be weak, with strong, bright bands and lines projected upon the background—a condition that generally prevails for novae.

Nova Pyxidis has been on the observing list of variable star observers for the past twenty years, in the hope that some observer might catch it on the rise to maximum. For northern observers, the star is unfavorably placed for observation—thirty degrees below the celestial equator. It is of about magnitude fourteen at minimum and thus is a very difficult star to watch. Observers should now follow the nova closely, not only to study its light variations, but also its spectral changes.

LEON CAMPBELL

THE CONCEPT OF A "STRAIN" IN BACTERIOLOGY

IN most fields of biology "strain" refers to a genetically distinct group within a variety or within a larger biological group when that group has no subdivisions. The problem is more complex in bacteriology. Because of the strong dissociative tendency among many bacteria which tends to produce distinctly different daughter races from apparently homogeneous parent cultures, transplants of such colonies are frequently considered as separate "strains." However, they are more correctly "dissociants," using the term in its broader sense "having properties different from those of the parent culture" rather than in the earlier meaning, which was based on smooth-rough differences. When such dissociants