

"faults" in an earthly landscape. They are disclosed in the same way, by breaks in the contour lines. So great is the accuracy of the new method that cleavage

steps only 1/5,000,000 inch in height can be detected. This amounts to only a few molecules.

*Science News Letter, February 12, 1944*

## ASTRONOMY

## Nova Is Now Egg-Shaped

Discovery that a star, which greatly increased in brilliance several years ago, has become elongated, may have some bearing on origin of our solar system.

► DISCOVERY that a star, which greatly increased in brightness a number of years ago because of an internal explosion, has become egg-shaped may bring us closer to the secret of the origin of our solar system.

A cable received at the Harvard College Observatory from Dr. J. S. Paraskevopoulos, superintendent of Harvard's Southern Astronomical Station, stated that the old nova in the southern constellation of Pictor, the Painter's Easel, is decidedly elongated. This nova brightened to a magnitude of 1.2 in 1925.

Photographs made with the 60-inch Rockefeller reflector at Bloemfontein, South Africa, fail to show the usual haze, which normally surrounds many of the novae.

Revolutionary phenomena similar to those observed for the famous Nova Hericulis of 1934 and Nova Persei of 1901 have apparently taken place within Nova Pictoris. These explosive phenomena may be linked with the evolution of planetary nebulae, but there is at yet no good evidence that they are connected with the evolution of planetary systems.

*Science News Letter, February 12, 1944*



**NOT A MUMMY!**—If you look closely you can see part of the face of a sleeping soldier volunteer in this picture. He is being exposed to 40 to 60 degrees below zero temperatures for testing the effectiveness of an Army sleeping bag. Under the bag he is wearing the electronic harness, developed by the Quartermaster Corps and Minneapolis-Honeywell's Brown Instrument Division, shown on the facing page. This has a heavy cable carrying impulses to an instrument board.

## MEDICINE

## Late Syphilis Skin Sore Cured by Penicillin

► PENICILLIN, already reported apparently effective in curing early syphilis, has now been tried in a case of late syphilis with "striking" results clinically, Dr. P. A. O'Leary and Dr. W. E. Herrell, of the Mayo Clinic report.

The disfiguring syphilitic condition of the skin over the entire nose showed improvement within eight days and cleared up, except for slight pigmentation, three weeks after the penicillin treatment was completed. It had previously been treated by local measures for eight months without improvement.

In spite of the "outstanding" clinical result, the blood and spinal fluid tests remained positive for syphilis. Further treatment may be necessary to change this. At least five years of observation will be necessary, the doctors state, to determine whether the results of treatment are permanent.

The patient was a 42-year-old married woman who had never been pregnant, did not know she had syphilis, and except for the skin affliction had no clinical signs of syphilis.

*Science News Letter, February 12, 1944*

## INVENTION

## Rubber-Wrapped Eggs May Be Sold by the Yard

► ONE of these days when you order a dozen fresh eggs, you may be surprised to see your dealer haul them up in a yard-long string, all linked together like sausages. This will be Albert B. Clunan's invention in operation; the "casing" will be one of the already well-known rubber wrapping films, sealed around each egg to exclude the staleness-causing air.

The sealing-in machine on which Mr. Clunan, a resident of Barberton, Ohio, obtained his patent, No. 2,340,260, is quite simple. The rubber film is led off a roll and through a U-shaped trough, where the eggs are put in place. At the end of the trough a pair of tubes deliver blasts of hot air, softening the film to the sticking-point. Immediately thereafter it passes between two rollers of soft sponge rubber, which press it firmly about the eggs and stick it to itself in the spaces between.

Rights in the patent are assigned to the Wingfoot Corporation, of Akron.

*Science News Letter, February 12, 1944*