A Discussion on "The Age of the Universe" was opened by Sir James Jeans, followed by Sir Arthur Eddington and Professor E. A. Milne.

A Geophysical Meeting was held at the Society's apartments on 1935 February 22, at 16 h. 30 m., Sir Gilbert Walker in the Chair. The following papers were read and discussed:

Dr. F. J. W. Whipple, "On an Alleged Tendency for Great Earthquakes to occur sympathetically in widely separated Regions."
Dr. H. Jeffreys, "The Surface Waves of Earthquakes."
Dr. J. de Graaff Hunter, "Regional Departures from Isostasy."
Dr. R. Stoneley, "On the Apparent Velocities of Earthquake Waves over the Surface of the Earth."

ON NEUTRAL OXYGEN AND CARBON IN NOVA HERCULIS 1934.

F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., M.A., and A. Beer, Ph.D.

1. One of the most striking changes in the spectrum of Nova Herculis 1934 during the first half of 1935 February was the strengthening of a bright band centred at 6300 A., relative to the emission bands of Fe++, which are the principal features of the spectrum between Hα and Hβ. An examination of the list of forbidden lines in Bowen's recent article on the gaseous nebulae* suggested the [OI] line at 6300-23 A. The two accompanying [OI] lines, in the region of spectrum available for examination, at 6363-88 and 5577-34—the green auroral line†—were also present as bright bands in the nova, and brightened during February. The measured wave-lengths on 1935 February 17-25 are 6300-06, 6363-86 and 5578-38 A.

2. A natural step to take after making the above identifications was to examine the spectrum when the absorption lines were strongest, 1934 December 21, for ordinary absorption lines of neutral oxygen. Table I gives the result and shows that though blends may have prevented an identification of the OI lines previously, the lines are clearly present—at any rate the lower members of each series; they have the displacement to the violet (corresponding to a velocity of ~170 km./sec.) shown by the other absorption lines of the α Cygni spectrum on the same plate.

† McLennan, McLeod and Ruedy, Phil. Mag., 6, 558, 1928.