suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis to take advantage at the earliest possible stage of the facilities provided for diagnosis and treatment. The importance also of eliminating tuberculous cattle from the herds of Great Britain is obviously very great. Bovine tuberculosis is responsible in Great Britain for a large number of deaths, probably more than 2,500 per annum, and for a still larger amount of serious illness. Much remains to be done before we can be satisfied that the whole of our milk supply is safe.

British School of Archæology at Athens

ON October 13, the British School of Archæology at Athens will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation by holding at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, an exhibition to illustrate the discoveries in Greece and Crete which have resulted from the work of the School, together with a special exhibit devoted to the Minoan civilizations of Greece, and the excavations of the School's honorary student, Sir Arthur Evans, at Knossos, in which the School's architects took part. This exhibit is being prepared by Sir Arthur Evans himself, with facilities kindly given him by the Keeper and Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum. It is understood that the exhibition will be inaugurated by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, on October 13 at 3 p.m., and will be open to the public from October 14 until November 14. In connexion with the jubilee of the School, it is proposed also to raise a special fund to enable the School to increase its staff, improve its library and accommodation, and provide for the needs of the graduate students who, in increasing numbers, are sent to Greece for advanced study by the universities.

Indian Vital Statistics for 1933

THE chief vital statistical figures for British India for 1933 are: (1) total births, 9,678,876, giving a crude birth-rate of 35·5 per mille, (2) total deaths numbered 6,096,787, giving a crude death-rate of 22·4 per mille, (3) infantile deaths numbered 1,650,973, an infantile death-rate per 1,000 births of 170·5 (Ann. Rep. of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1933. Government of India Press, New Delhi. Rs.6 as.4 or 10*s*.). The birth-rate is more than double, the death-rate nearly double, and the infant mortality about two and a half times, the corresponding figures for England and Wales. It is remarked that, contrary to some recent statements, the population of India is increasing at an alarming rate, and by 1941 will probably reach 400 millions. The total land area of British India amounts to only 2·44 acres per head of the population, but allowing for forest, uncultivated and fallow lands, only 0·72 acre per head is under food crops—quite insufficient for even the present population. Birth-control is viewed sympathetically, but only seven hundred medical women are available to instruct Indian women about it. Cholera deaths (68,318) and plague deaths (43,000) are not nearly so high as in some years, but smallpox deaths numbered 103,000, compared with 45,000 during the previous year—a disconcerting rise.

Anti-Rabic Treatment in Southern India

THE Annual Report of the Director, Major Iyengar, of the Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor, states that during the year ended December 31, 1934, 414 persons underwent the complete, and 77 an incomplete, treatment at the Institute after bites by animals supposedly rabid. For the second time in the twenty-eight years of the Institute's existence, there were no deaths from hydrophobia among those treated. Paris fixed virus was in use in the form of Semple's carbolized five per cent sheep vaccine, and at the end of the year was in its 937 passage. The vaccine was also issued from several out-centres—12,316 courses for nearly 13,000 cases, with 26 deaths from hydrophobia. In addition, anti-rabic vaccine was issued for the prophylactic treatment of 259 animals. In spite of what the Institute is doing, 412 deaths from hydrophobia were recorded in the Madras Presidency during 1934.

Northern Lights

PROF. CARL STØRMER has directed attention to a prevalent confusion between the north magnetic pole and the point on the earth where the magnetic axis meets the surface. Thus, in the supplement to NATURE of May 16, 1936, it is stated on p. 813 that "It is the distance from the magnetic axis of the earth that counts, and that axis meets the surface of the earth at the north magnetic pole, which is in the island of Boothia in Canada"; this should read as follows: "It is the distance from the magnetic axis of the earth that counts and that axis meets the surface of the earth about midway between the north magnetic pole and the north pole". This point is near North-Western Greenland, and it might be named the north axial pole. The zone or belt of greatest auroral display has this point for centre on the earth.

The Night Sky in August

THE nights during August are still rather short to afford much opportunity for a close scrutiny of the rich fields about the galactic equator, which in the British Isles passes overhead from north-east to south-west about midnight at the beginning of the month. Even at nightfall, however, the sky is distinctive with Arcturus still fairly high towards the west: Jupiter a brilliant object in the south-west: Vega, Deneb and Altair not far from the meridian: Saturn rising with Pisces in the east, whilst Capella may be picked out towards the northern horizon. Full moon occurs on August $3^d\ 3^h\ 47^m$ and new moon on August $17^d\ 3^h\ 21^m$. The brightest star to be occulted this lunation is κ Piscium (magnitude 4·9)—the re-appearance may be observed on August $6^d\ 1^h\ 59{\cdot}7^m$ (U.T.) at position angle 267° from the north point of the lunar disk. Other occultations of stars, ranging in magnitude from 6·3 to 6·7, may be observed on August 5, 6, 10 and 13. Between August 9 and 12 occurs the maximum of the Perseid meteor shower, the radiant of which is in Perseus at R.A. $3^h\ 0^m$ and Dec. 57° N. The meteors of this shower are yellowish in colour and move with medium velocity. The orbit of the shower is well determined and coincides with