

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 10s.). 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 59.7^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

that of Tuttle's Comet of 1862. On August 4, Peltier's comet (discovered on May 15 last by Mr. L. Peltier of Delphos, Ohio) is at its nearest approach to the earth at a distance of $15\frac{3}{4}$ million miles. Its computed position on August 4^d 0^h is R.A. 21^h 45^m 10^s; Dec. 4° 8' S., which places it in the constellation Aquarius, but the moon being full will prevent its being easily observed; otherwise it should be faintly visible to the naked eye. The comet is then travelling south rapidly and will reach 70° S. on August 24. Nova Lacertæ, which was discovered on June 18^d 21^h $\frac{1}{2}$, probably reached its maximum brightness of about mag. 2.2 on June 20 and is now slowly fading. Its magnitude on July 17 was 6.3 according to Steavenson, so that the nova can be seen with binoculars; its position (R.A. 22^h 11^m 5^s; Dec. 54° 59' 42" N.) is about 2° south of ϵ Cephei. The character of the nova's spectrum suggests a more rapid progress than is normally the case through the typical evolution stages of a nova.

Announcements

IN view of the Coronation festivities next year, the dates of the Royal Society soirées have been fixed well in advance. The men's soirée will be held on Tuesday, May 4, and the ladies' soirée on Thursday, May 6; it is possible that a third soirée will be arranged, but the date is not yet fixed.

IN connexion with the Second International Congress for Microbiology being held at University College, London, on July 25–August 1, an exhibition of scientific instruments has been arranged at the College. The exhibition will be open to all scientific workers, irrespective of whether they are members of the Congress or not, on July 27–29, from 10.30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

At the Annual Summer Conference of Advisory Plant Pathologists at the University of Leeds, Dr. Geo. H. Pethybridge, mycologist to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the last twelve years, and previously for many years in the Department of Agriculture in Ireland, was presented with a wireless receiving set, etc., as a mark of appreciation on the occasion of his approaching retirement from official service.

THE Jones-Bateman cup of the Royal Horticultural Society, which is awarded triennially for researches in the growing of hardy fruits, figs, grapes and peaches in the open or under glass, is available for award in 1936. Candidates should submit accounts of their work by October 31 to the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W.1. The work dealt with must have been carried out by the candidate in the United Kingdom mainly during the past five years.

THE thirteenth Annual Conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (ASLIB) will be held in Oxford on September 18–21. On September 18, at 8.30 p.m., the president-elect, Dr. Cyril Norwood, will deliver his address entitled

"The Library in the School". On September 19, at 9.30 a.m., a symposium on "Library Instruction for University and Research Students in America" will be held. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, ASLIB, 31, Museum Street, London, W.C.1.

PROF. E. ABDERHALDEN, professor of physiology in the University of Halle, has been nominated an honorary member of the Society of Biological Chemists at Bangalore.

THE following have recently been elected members of the Imperial Leopold Caroline German Academy of Science at Halle: Dr. Paul Buchner, professor of zoology at Leipzig; Dr. Hermann Loescheke, professor of pathology at Greifswald; Dr. C. Gösta A. Forsell, professor of medical radiology, and Dr. S. E. Patrik Haglund, professor of orthopaedics at Stockholm; Dr. Knud Faber, professor of medicine at Copenhagen; Dr. A. H. M. J. Van Rooy, professor of gynæcology and obstetrics at Amsterdam; Dr. E. Leclainche, director of the international office of epizootics in Paris; and Dr. Karl Wegelin, professor of general pathology and morbid anatomy at Bern.

THE following scientific awards have recently been made by the American Medical Association: Gold Medal to Drs. Charles B. Huggins, S. W. J. Noonan and B. H. Blockson of the University of Chicago for their work in connexion with increasing blood production in the arms and legs by means of increased temperature; Silver Medal to G. C. Supple and S. Ansbacher of the research division of the Borden Company for their method of obtaining lactoflavine from milk; Bronze Medal to Dr. Alvin L. Barach of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, for his method of providing an artificial light air in which helium is substituted for nitrogen.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:

A teacher of engineering (mechanical) in the Norwich Technical College—The Principal (July 28).

A lecturer in civil engineering in Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—The Registrar (July 30).

A statistician for a War Department establishment—The President, Royal Engineer Board, Regent's Park Barracks, London, N.W.1 (August 5).

Chemists at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey—The Principal Clerk, Central Office, Royal Gunpowder and Small Arms Factories, Enfield Lock, Middlesex (August 7).

A senior lecturer in physiology in the University of Aberdeen—The Secretary (August 15).

A technical editor at the Technical Institute, 16 St. Mary's Parsonage, Manchester, 3—The General Secretary (September 7).

An assistant lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Physics (with engineering degree) in the Natal Technical College—Mr. H. W. Gray, 17 Claydon Avenue, Southsea.