

further information concerning the chemical identification of pyrexin.

The foregoing biochemical units present in exudates help in explaining, in part at least, some of the major sequences in the development of inflammation. The

altered chemistry of the injured cell liberates various common denominators, such as described above, into the exudate. It is these biochemical units, in turn, that account quite adequately for the fundamentally stereotyped reaction of inflammation.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AN "AIR AGE" MAP OF THE WORLD

THE aeronautical correspondent of *The Times*, London, calls attention to the fact that the British Overseas Airways Corporation has issued a new type of world map, designed to "re-teach" geography in a form more suited to the coming "Air Age."

It points out that because the earth is a sphere and maps of the world are flat, every type of map gives a distorted picture. On a Mercator projection, now commonly used for world maps, the distortion increases according to the distance from the equator. For instance, Greenland is shown as being about the same size as South America, whereas its area is only about one tenth of that continent. Distances between widely separated places also become exaggerated, particularly in high latitudes.

At present, maps drawn on the Mercator projection are used for both sea and air navigation, but whereas ships must follow tracks which may involve long detours to avoid land masses, the aeroplane can follow the shortest route—a straight line over the earth's surface. Now that airliners are being designed to fly non-stop over long distances, a new type of map is needed which will enable the intending passenger to read accurately the distance he has to cover.

To indicate the distance from London of places all over the world which will be served by British air services, the British Overseas Airways Corporation has prepared what is known as an azimuthal equidistant projection map centered on London. Straight lines drawn from London to any other point on the earth's surface will show accurately the distances separating them, though not necessarily the route which will be followed.

On the azimuthal equidistant map a straight line indicates a Great Circle course, but such a direct route is not likely to be followed by air services in the years immediately after the war unless it happens to serve big centers of population or important business areas. Such routes, in general, will not be used for air services until there have been further developments in the speed, range and economics of long-distance flying.

The British Overseas Airways Corporation's object in producing an "Air Age" map now is to encourage the teaching of this new conception of geography in schools, so that boys and girls will grow up to be air-minded.

PILOT TEACHING COURSES IN CANCER

THE need for the immediate establishment of "pilot teaching courses" in cancer for third and fourth year medical students was unanimously agreed upon by the National Advisory Cancer Council, which met on April 7 at the National Cancer Institute of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The council, headed by Surgeon General Thomas Parran, stated that definite emphasis should be placed on the early diagnosis of cancer which is now the second cause of death in the country. It was pointed out that the general practitioner is the "first line of defense" in cancer control and the courses should be "slanted" toward making graduating medical students "cancer conscious."

It is planned to stimulate the setting up of "pilot courses" with the working curricular committees of leading medical schools throughout the country. This will be done by the council joining hands with other foundations interested in cancer control and research.

Long-range postwar planning of cancer research programs was also considered and it was agreed that support for research programs should be guaranteed for periods ranging from five to ten years, instead of one year at a time, as has been done in the past.

In order to meet increasing demands for cancer specialists Dr. Parran explained that the Army has offered full cooperation in channeling news of Public Health Service fellowships in cancer to physicians in the armed forces possessing cancer experience. Dr. Parran said, "Of course, these men will be entitled to additional training under the GI Bill of Rights and when this is exhausted they can avail themselves of our fellowships."

Another topic discussed was the possibility of developing cancer specialists within each state to serve as consultants to physicians in rural and urban areas.

Three grants-in-aid for cancer research were approved at the meeting. They were made for one year to the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis, for photometric histochemical study of tumors—\$5,000; Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital, St. Louis, for one year—\$5,000 for the study of the integration of changes in experimental carcinogenesis; an additional grant of \$5,000 was made for two years to the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital for the measurement of carcinogenicity of residue oils.