

they thought the case was hopeless. The public just wasn't interested because it didn't understand what was involved. The people who were most actively interested were against broadening FDA's powers.

Kefauver's Position

All of this is outside the legislative responsibility of Kefauver's Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly. Kefauver cannot bring the remedial legislation to the floor of the Senate. It must come from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. But what he has done is to make a public issue of the whole business. If next year the FDA is granted the powers it is seeking, Senator Kefauver's name is not likely to be on the bill, but he and his staff will deserve a good deal, and perhaps most, of the credit.

School Aid Bill in Trouble

It became clear last week that there is a substantial majority in both houses of Congress ready to agree on a compromise school aid bill which the President would sign. Whether members will get a chance to vote the bill through remained very much in doubt. The Senate agreed to submit the bill to a joint conference to work out the compromise, but the House Rules Committee has not yet cleared the House bill for conference, and if it does the effort of House Republican leader Halleck to pack the conference committee with men opposed to school aid may prevent a compromise from being reached. If the bill gets by these hurdles it will then have to go back through the Rules Committee in order to get to the floor of the House for a final vote. HEW Secretary Arthur Flemming is clearly in favor of the compromise, but the White House, as in past years, seems to be making no effort to keep conservative House Republicans from killing the Administration's own proposal.

The compromise, if it gets through, will provide \$325 million a year in aid for classroom construction. It will run for four years, with two-thirds of the money going to the neediest states. This is just about what the 1957 Administration bill asked for, but is a long way short of the billion dollar a year program passed by the Senate, which authorized aid for teachers' salaries as well as for classroom construction.

A New Journal of Maps: Biogeography of the North Atlantic

The American Geographical Society, working with a panel set up by the Committee on Oceanography of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, proposes to publish a scientific journal of an unusual kind, tentatively called *North Atlantic Biogeography*. The journal will consist of maps, accompanied by such explanatory text as may be necessary, and will appear irregularly as contributions are received and accepted. It will be a medium for publication of studies of all kinds—biological, geological, physical, chemical—that will increase our understanding of the marine environment. In scope it will be limited to the Atlantic marine areas, from the equator to the pole, and will include the Arctic basin.

Base Maps Prepared

The American Geographical Society has already begun the production of work sheets or base maps for plotting data and has completed, as its first contribution to the project, two sheets covering the eastern North American

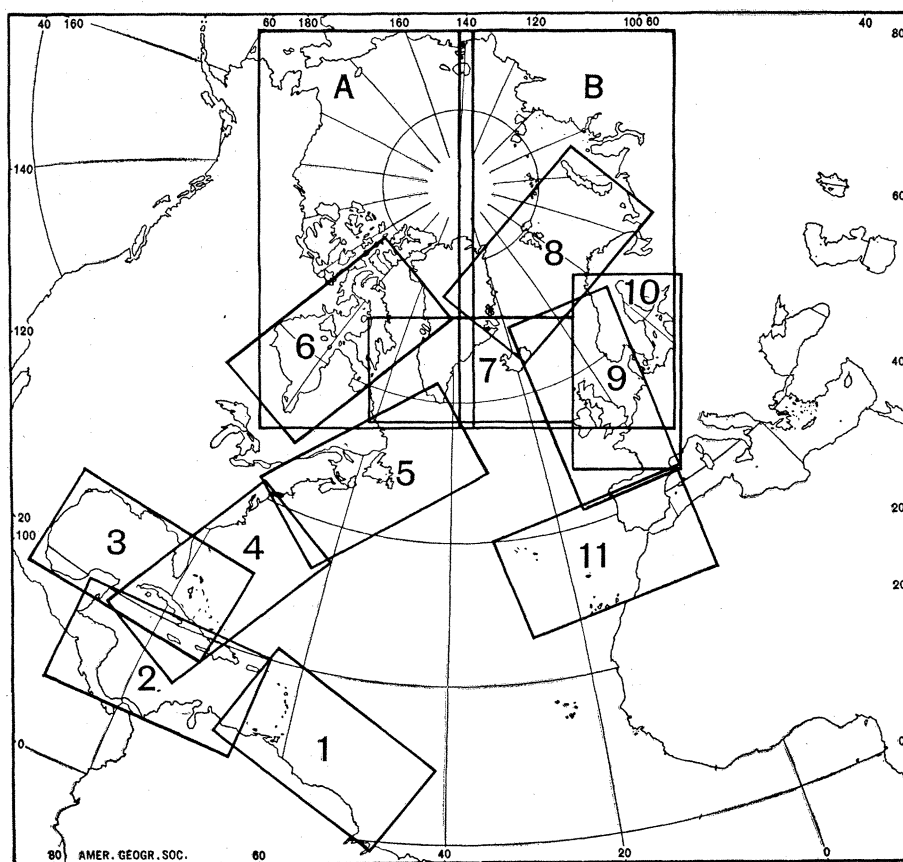
seaboard from the Labrador Sea to the Straits of Florida. The master sheet, an oblique stereographic azimuthal projection specially prepared for the series, and the proposed layout of large-scale charts are shown in the accompanying figure. Scientists who contribute to the journal will be able to obtain these work sheets at nominal cost from the American Geographical Society (Broadway at 156th St., New York 32, N.Y.).

The journal will be published in atlas size, 24 by 15 inches. It will be available in two editions—on opaque paper or on a transparent material which will be of particular value for comparative studies—and will form an expanding atlas of the North Atlantic.

Journal Meets Growing Need

The new journal will meet a growing need in the study of the environment and of marine organisms and will offer a ready and standard means of recording and comparing distributions. It will be adaptable to almost any relevant purpose a particular author may have in mind.

Often in marine research, as elsewhere, correlations are found which seem significant, then the pattern falls



Sheet layout for the biogeographic atlas.

apart in a few years because of the unsuspected existence of variables not included in the original investigation. Plotting the distribution of as many variables as possible will offer a broader approach to these problems and will uncover critical areas toward which new research efforts may be directed. The journal will also offer marine biologists a means of publishing material gathered incidentally in the course of their investigations—material that might otherwise stand little chance of being reported because of other pressing demands on the research laboratories.

The plan is sponsored in the United States by the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, and in Canada by the Royal Society of Canada. Funds are being sought in both countries. The panel is international. It consists of M. J. Dunbar (chairman), Lionel A. Walford, Charles B. Hitchcock, C. O'D. Iselin, Ernest Thompson, C. S. Pittendrigh, T. W. M. Cameron, and H. H. Hess.

Foundation Aids State Academies

The National Science Foundation will in 1960–61 again sponsor science education projects for students and teachers through grants to state academies of science and similar organizations. The 43 grants, to 36 institutions, total \$620,000.

A wide variety of projects will be undertaken, including expansion of junior academies of science, scheduling of visits to secondary schools by scientists, and experimental approaches to science education. Illustrative of this variety are some of the projects carried on during 1959–60, the first year of the program.

The Indiana Academy of Science sponsored a series of 250 visits by competent scientists and mathematicians from 19 Indiana colleges and universities to secondary schools.

The Louisiana Academy of Science conducted a Junior Academy of Science Program in which secondary school students carried out research projects and wrote papers describing their results for presentation at ten regional meetings. The best papers were presented and judged at a state meeting.

The Texas Academy of Science sponsored 2-day conferences on research at four Texas universities. These were attended by 400 undergraduates from colleges not offering the Ph.D.

Support by NSF covers items such as the expenses of high school science teachers in attending meetings, the cost of expendable supplies, the expenses of lectures or visiting scientists, and necessary administrative expenses.

News Briefs

Polar expedition. A special Army task force known as Project Lead Dog has left Camp Tuto, near Thule, on an 1800-mile expedition over the Greenland icecap. Accompanied by scientists of the Chemical Corps, Medical Corps, Signal Corps, Quartermaster Corps, Engineering Corps, and Air Force Cambridge Research Center, the 30-man Transportation Corps task force will cross the icecap to Crown Prince Christian Land, will retrace a portion of the route, and will then proceed straight north to Peary Land.

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Weekly Soviet press review. A weekly review of scientific and technical articles appearing in the Soviet press, and of significant new Russian books, is now being published by the Office of Technical Services, Business and Defense Services Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Called *Current Review of the Soviet Technical Press* (Order No. 60-21441), the publication is sold on subscription by OTS at \$7 for 6 months. The time lapse between the appearance of an original article in a Russian publication and its review in the weekly is no more than a few weeks.

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Chromosome nomenclature. Recently a study group met to formulate a system of nomenclature for human chromosomes, with a view to eliminating the confusion which has arisen from the independent publication of various systems by different workers. As a result of the meeting, a report has been prepared on "A Proposed Standard System of Nomenclature of Human Mitotic Chromosomes." For information write to the secretary of the Human Chromosome Study Group, Arthur Robinson, M.D., Assistant Professor of Biophysics, University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 E. 9th Ave., Denver 20, Colo.

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New sources of energy. Practical problems and experience on the utilization of solar energy, wind power, and geothermic energy, particularly with

reference to less developed countries, will be the subject of a United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy that is scheduled to be held in Europe from 17 to 27 August 1961. Details about the organization of the conference and conditions for participation will be published shortly in a special pamphlet; this will be obtainable at United Nations Headquarters and at United Nations Information Centers abroad.

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Airborne Television Instruction. Eighteen areas in six midwestern states have been designated as a communications network for the Midwest Program on Airborne Television Instruction. Each of these areas has a major college or university near its center. According to program plans, instructional telecasts will be beamed from an aircraft to schools in the six states, starting in February 1961. The \$7-million project is supported by the Ford Foundation and by contributions from private industry. The project has headquarters at Memorial Center, Purdue University, which has prepared a 32-page brochure on the program.

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Undergraduate research. Some 2500 undergraduate students will work with scientists in more than 200 research organizations this summer and during the coming school year as a result of two recently announced National Science Foundation programs. The student research will be supported by 330 grants totaling \$1.8 million as part of the foundation's Undergraduate Research Participation and Undergraduate Research Training programs. Students will receive a stipend of up to \$60 a week for 8 to 10 weeks of full-time summer work and an average stipend of \$150 for academic work on a part-time basis.

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Submarine and space medicine. The Laboratory of Aviation and Naval Medicine at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, has announced that the 2nd International Symposium on Submarine and Space Medicine is scheduled for 18–19 August. The symposium is independent of the 11th International Astronautical Congress, which will be held in Stockholm 15–20 August. The number of symposium participants will be limited to 40 or 50. For information write to the secretary, P.-O. Barr, M.D., Laboratory of Aviation Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm.