

Prevalent Otitis Media to Get Further Scrutiny By Physicians

One of the most prevalent health problems among Alaska's Native people, otitis media, will be given further scrutiny by U. S. Public Health Service physicians late this month with consultative advice from a specialist in otolaryngology.

Dr. Robert Earl Pumphrey Jr. will be in Alaska the week of November 27 for conferences with medical personnel at Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, the Bethel PHS Hospital and Mt. Edgecumbe at Sitka.

Now a consultant for the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Pumphrey recently completed two years as Chief of the Department of Otolaryngology at the USAF Hospital, Andrews Air Force Base.

In 1966 he was awarded the Air Force commendation medal for meritorious service in connection with this work.

His other appointments include staff membership at Washington (D. C.) Hospital Center and Children's Hospital; clinical instructor for George Washington University and consultant for the Veterans Hospital in Washington.

He is a diplomate of the American Board of Otolaryngology and member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology.

During a review of the PHS program for ENT in Alaska, Dr. Pumphrey will consider specific problems and needs in the field of otitis media (inflammation of the middle ear) and will help to delineate unmet needs and resources required to take care of them.

Dr. Kenneth J. Fleshman, chief of pediatrics at ANMC, will tell of acute aspects of the disease during a clinical seminar. Chronic aspects will be related by Dr. Jean Goorman, chief of epidemiology branch for the Alaska Native Health Area.

She will also report on present research activities, list what needs to be done to resolve the problems and will serve as moderator.

Completing the panel will be Dr. Helen Beirne, clinical director for Alaska Crippled Children's Association Treatment Center, who will speak on rehabilitative aspects of the disease which often results in hearing problems.