

S.E. Children to Be Checked—

Hearing Problems

Bert Hall, Commissioner of Health and Welfare, announced last week that "All Southeast Alaska children may now have professional examinations for the detection of hearing problems.

Children requiring examinations will be referred by their physicians for a check-up with new testing devices at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital."

The Department of Health and Welfare and the Easter Seal Society for Alaska Crippled Children and Adults (ACCA) have cooperatively purchased and installed special hearing-testing equipment in the Alaska Native Service Hospital at Mt. Edgecumbe.

This is the initial step in creating a hearing-testing unit for Southeastern Alaskan children needing testing.

Until this equipment was installed, children in Southeast Alaska traveled to Anchorage or Seattle for clinical hearing tests.

Mrs. Margaret Wood, Speech and Hearing Specialist for the Department of Health and Welfare, explained that the equipment makes sophisticated tests, likened to an x-ray of the ear, showing physicians the source and degree of a hearing loss before treatment.

Children as young as a few months of age may be tested.

Commissioner Hall and Donald K. Freedman, M.D., M.P.H., Director of the Department's Division of Public Health, lauded the efforts of the Easter Seal Society (ACCA) for teamwork with the State and Federal agencies to provide the much needed equipment.