

## Hearing Tests Conducted In Klamath County Schools

Miss Arlene Hardt, audiometrist from the Oregon State Board of Health, has been testing hearing of school children throughout Klamath County for the past six weeks. The hearing testing pro-

gram is conducted each year in cooperation with the Klamath County Health Department. This year, Miss Hardt tested all pupils in the following schools: Fremont Elementary and Junior High, Pelican, Sacred Heart Academy, Riverside, Peterson, Ferguson, Altamont Elementary and Junior High, Mallin, Merrill, Chilquin and Fort Klamath. In addition, she tested all first graders in

all the city and county schools, all children who were found to have a hearing loss last year, and any others thought by private physicians, teachers or parents to have hearing difficulty. Out of the approximate 4,700 children who were tested, 189 were referred for medical care. Parents of each child found to have a hearing loss have been contacted by the public health nurses as permanent damage to hearing can be avoided in

many cases if early medical treatment is obtained. Parents of children with normal hearing were not notified. In answer to questions about hearing losses, Dr. Seth Kerron, listed some of the most common causes.

The common cold or sore throat at the time of testing may be the cause of a temporary deviation from normal hearing and subsequent examination reveals impairment in hearing as the cold or sore throat itself improves. Uncared for colds and sniffles which are allowed to "drag on" in some cases cause ear infections which could result in serious hearing impairment. Earaches and running ears, allowed to go uncared for without medical treatment, inflamed swollen adenoids, foreign objects in children's ears and contagious diseases often are the cause of ear

trouble for many youngsters. Normal ear wax sometimes becomes packed in the ear canal and causes a hearing loss with chances of permanent injury to the eardrum if removal is attempted by an unqualified person. Dr. Kerron believes the amount of hearing loss can be reduced if parents could recognize symptoms of hearing loss and provide prompt medical attention when the symptoms appear. Some of the things parents can do are: (1) Find out what causes frequent colds and sniffles. If there is an earache,

consult a physician at once. Hearing loss often can be prevented through prompt action. (2) Take advantage of protective "shots" against disease. (3) Do not "poke" or put objects into the ears. (4) A child who is subject to ear

trouble, or who has a punctured eardrum, should obtain his physician's approval before swimming. Some types of hearing loss are not easily recognized and parents do not know of their existence until the loss is discovered by a hear-

ing test. It is unwise to assume that a child will "outgrow" his hearing loss. The hearing loss of many children gets worse, however, if treated early, most permanent hearing defects are preventable.



ARLENE HARDT

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