

**EFFECT OF AUREOMYCIN AND PENICILLIN ON THE GROWTH
OF GUATEMALAN SCHOOL CHILDREN.** Nevin S. Scrimshaw,
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Predominately Mayan Indian children, 7 to 12 years of age, living in the Guatemalan highlands and subsisting on diets low in animal protein were studied. In one trial fourteen children receiving 50 mgs. of aureomycin daily for 15 months showed a higher monthly height gain (0.48 cm.) than 43 control children (0.33 cm.) (National Vitamin Foundation Symposium, No. 8, 1953). In two successive 12 month periods without aureomycin they had the same rate of gain as control groups. In an 18 month trial in another locality the monthly gain was 0.43 cm. for 23 children receiving placebos and 0.41 cm. for 32 receiving orally 50 mgs. of penicillin daily. In a third community during the first five months, the monthly height gain was 0.35 cm. for 38 control children, 0.36 cm. for 38 receiving 50 mgs. of penicillin daily and 0.44 cm. for 35 receiving 50 mgs. of aureomycin daily. In a fourth community with the same period and dosages, the monthly height gain was 0.43 cm. for 35 control children, 0.51 cm. for 39 receiving penicillin and 0.50 cm. for 37 receiving aureomycin. The average monthly weight gains ranged from a low of 0.16 kilos per month in one control group to 0.31 kilos in another and varied widely irrespective of the type of treatment. It is concluded that under the conditions prevailing in rural Guatemalan Indian communities, the oral administration of 50 mgs. of aureomycin daily stimulates stat-
ural growth in primary school children, but the response to penicillin is variable. (Assisted by grants from the National Vitamin Foundation, Merck and Co., Lederle Laboratories and the Squibb Institute administered by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau).