

EFFECT OF VITAMIN B<sub>12</sub>, AUREOMYCIN AND PENICILLIN ON THE GROWTH OF  
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Significant effects were previously reported (Fed. Proc. 13, 1954) of daily oral administration of 50 mg. of aureomycin for five months on growth of 72 rural school children compared with 73 receiving placebos. During a subsequent 25 months no significant differences have been encountered between experimental and control groups. School children previously showing no growth response to 50 mg. of penicillin or penicillin plus 20 µg. of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> daily for 24 months did not respond to 1.5 mg. of folic acid added for 12 additional months. Twenty-seven in the experimental and 18 in the control group participated for the entire period. For 18 months 223 school children in four localities received 20 µg. of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> daily or placebos; no differences in average monthly gains in height and weight resulted from the B<sub>12</sub>. Pre-school children averaging 4.4 years were given 20 µg. of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> or placebos. In 12 months 43 receiving B<sub>12</sub> showed an average bone maturation gain of 8.6 months compared with 8.1 months for 46 controls. Tabulations completed for the first 6 months show average monthly gains of 0.65 cm. in height and of 0.17 kg. in weight compared with 0.70 cm. and 0.16 kg. for controls. It is concluded that long term oral administration of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> alone or the antibiotics aureomycin and penicillin even when B<sub>12</sub> and folic acid are added to the latter has no significant positive or negative effect on child growth in Guatemala.

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