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Key passages

EFFECT OF A DAILY VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT ON THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

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Method.—The test was made on 1,620 children, aged 5 to 14 years, attending elementary or secondary schools. In both areas, Stoke and Salford, the children were divided at random into two groups, one of which received one vitamin capsule daily, the other a placebo daily.

Comparison of Experimental Groups

At Beginning of Test.—Table II shows the findings for the various experimental groups in Stoke and Salford at the beginning of the test. In Stoke there were no significant differences between the vitamin groups and their corresponding control groups in weight, height, pull, bar-time, and fatigue potential. In Salford there were no significant differences in weight, height, or audiometer scores, except that the girls aged 11–13 years in the vitamin group were heavier and taller than the corresponding group. The latter was an unexpected result, as the children were randomly selected.

None of the differences was significant, however, at three times the standard error. But scrutiny of the data revealed that for most of the above conditions the group which showed a significant improvement had a considerably higher original incidence than its control group despite the fact that the groups were chosen at random.

The data of the three groups were analysed separately and together. This complication did not apply to the other tooth and gum conditions under investigation. For both Stoke and Salford the data of boys and girls were analysed separately, for the age ranges 5–7 years, 8–10 years, and 11–13 years.