ternal dosimetry at their presentation in 1980. Though their value as state of the art has no doubt depreciated by the time of publication, they still represent a valuable coverage of several very important areas of internal dosimetry. The three-day conference presented work on human and animal biodistributions, data handling, dose estimation and extrapolation, kinetics, mathematical models, and discussions of dose equivalent concepts. The papers are well presented, uniform in content, format, and readability and of considerable interest to professionals in nuclear medicine. Though much of the information can now be found in the literature since this conference, the discussions among the participants and the summaries by Dr. Subramanian provide valuable insight into many of the areas of current investigation and future needs. These symposium proceedings are a necessary and useful part of any nuclear medicine library.

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**NUTRITIONAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE GOITROGENIC ACTION OF CASSAVA.** P. Hennert, P. Bourdoux, R. Lagasse, C. Thilly, G. Putzeys, P. Courtois, H. L. Vis, Y. Yunga, P. Seghers, F. DeLange. F. DeLange, F. B. Iteke, A. M. Ermans, Eds.

This monograph presents, in well organized form, a seven-year study by a group of Belgian and Zairian scientists, directed to the impact of dietary cassava on thyroid function. It has already been established that cassava (a plant with high content of HCN, converted in the body to SCN) when a dietary staple, is associated with endemic goiter. In this work the authors directed studies to the impact of the relative intakes of iodide and of SCN (I/SCN ratio), and of protein-calorie malnutrition, with special concern for impact on endemic cretinism.

These studies confirm the high incidence of endemic goiter and cretinism in populations in whom cassava is a dietary staple, but show that cretinism is a problem only when iodine ingestion is low. The I/SCN ratio is the critical factor, and must be below three for a major induction of cretinism from endemic goiter. Ample iodine intake (over 60 $\mu$g/day) protects against even high cassava intake. In severe protein-calorie malnutrition, cretinism was seen when the I/SCN ratio was low, but in the absence of goiter. Even malnourished patients converted HCN to SCN.

Several chapters relate studies in pregnant women, in newborns, and in children. Thyroid sensitivity to SCN is greatest in the newborn and fetus and remains high in childhood. SCN crosses the placenta freely. Based on a study in rats, the authors conclude that SCN itself is not toxic to the brain, but only through induction of hypothyroidism.

While proper processing of cassava can reduce its SCN content, the authors found that education in these techniques is impractical as a public health measure. Their work indicates that the more fruitful approach to this serious public health problem will be through correction of iodine deficiency.

This monograph is a scholarly work directed to understanding the etiology of a disease affecting many people. It is fascinating reading and makes a major contribution to resolving an important problem.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

*Computed Tomography in the Evaluation of Trauma.* M.P. Federle, M. Brant-Zawadzki, Eds. Baltimore, MD, Williams & Wilkins, 1982, 264 pp, $39.95

*Head Injury.* P.R. Cooper, Ed. Baltimore, MD, Williams & Wilkins, 1982, 412 pp, $49.00

*Pharmacoangiography in the Diagnosis of Tumors.* Gy. Vargha, Budapest, Akademiai Kiadó, 1981, 240 pp, $37.00

*Radionuclide Brain Imaging* (Series-Current Practice in Nuclear Medicine). D. Front. Norwalk, CT, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1982, 141 pp, $32.50

*Radioimmunoassay of Gut Reculatory Peptides.* S.R. Bloom, R.G. Long, Eds. New York, NY, Praeger, 1982, 194 pp, $24.95

*Critical Diagnostic Pathways in Radiology, An Algorithmic Approach.* R.L. Eisenberg, J.R. Amberg. Philadelphia, PA, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1981, 488 pp, $52.00

*CRC Handbook Series in Clinical Laboratory Science.* D. Seligson, Editor-in-chief. *Section A: Nuclear Medicine Volume II.* R.P. Spencer, Section Ed. Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, Inc., 1982, 576 pp, $84.50 U.S., $95.00, outside U.S.

*CRC Handbook of Medical Physics Volume I.* R.G. Waggener, J.G. Kereiakes, R.J. Shalek, Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, Inc., 1982, 327 pp, $64.00 U.S., $74.00, outside U.S.

*CRC Handbook of Radiation Measurement and Protection, Section A, Volume II: Biological and Mathematical Information.* A. Brodsky, Ed. Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, Inc., 1982, 720 pp, $94.00 U.S., $105.00, outside U.S.