

have been detected. Seventy-nine percent of the children exposed at less than

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COLLECTION Marshall Islands

BOX No. 5687

FOLDER Marshall Islands 1967

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5 cases were operated upon in the United States in June, 1966. In all these cases, 9 children and one adult were all found to have benign nodules, and one 41 year-old woman had thyroid cancer.

H. Monopert

In September, 1966, several of us again carried out a thyroid examination and detected no new nodules. Four children (in whom nodules had been noted in March, 1966, but who were not operated upon since treatment was considered to have been inadequate) showed no enlargement and in most cases some degree of regression of the nodules. The association of deficient thyroid function with growth retardation noted in children in the exposed group is strongly suggested by the finding of definite hypothyroidism in 2 of the most retarded boys. Two other children with thyroid nodules also showed suggestive evidence of hypofunction of their glands.

Since September, 1965, the exposed people of Rongelap have been under treatment with thyroid hormone. Though the analysis of growth data in the children is incomplete, it appears that the 2 boys showing most growth retardation have had a spurt in growth on this treatment. The recent regression of size of nodules in 4 children and disappearance of a nodule in one adult seems to indicate that we are getting favorable results from the thyroid hormone treatment.

The thyroid status of these people will be given special consideration during the forthcoming annual medical survey, which will be carried out at Rongelap Island in March, 1967 by 16 medical specialists and technicians from the United States and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

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