This causes an increased metabolic rate, perhaps even double the normal rate, increased sensitivity, sweating, flushing, rapid respiration, palpitation, and an increased gastrointestinal activity. The heart is also affected because the cardiac output is increased. Overactivity of the thyroid or an increase in the size of the gland produces a disease known as exophthalmic goiter, characterized by the protrusion of the eyeball.

Goiter may be due to excessive stimulation from the pituitary or more likely, from an inadequate supply of iodine in the diet, which causes the gland to overwork.

To prevent goiter, the dietary iodine intake should be about 0.1 mg daily.

It is secreted by the thyroid gland; therefore, it is known as **thyrocalcitonin.**

It is a polypeptide composed of thirty-two amino acids.

It acts principally on bone, causing inhibition of bone resorption, therefore its effects are more striking in young animals.

It may be useful in controlling hypercalcemia resulting from increased bone resorption.