



FIGURE 7.16 Rotary die process equipment. A, gelatin tank; B, spreader box; C, gelatin ribbon casting drum; D, mineral oil lubricant bath; E, medicine tank; F, filling pump; G, encapsulating mechanism; H, capsule conveyor; I, capsule washer; J, infrared dryer; K, capsule drying tunnel; L, gelatin net receiver. (Courtesy of R.P. Scherer Corporation.)

the contents of a specified number of capsules can be removed and the empty capsule shells dissolved in the dissolution medium before proceeding with the sampling and chemical analysis. If the capsule floats on the surface of the dissolution fluid, a small, loose piece of nonreactive material, such as a few turns of a wire helix, may be attached to the dosage form to force it to sink to the bottom of the vessel.

Weight Variation

The uniformity of dosage units may be demonstrated by determining *weight variation* and/or *content uniformity*. The weight variation method is as follows.

Hard Capsules

Ten capsules are individually weighed and their contents removed. The emptied shells