

THERAPEUTIC NOTES

Common Colds.—J. W. Fisher (*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*) believes common colds are due to infection, and are, therefore, contagious. Reasonable isolation should be carried out in each case, and further prevention secured through preventive inoculation. Vaccine treatment will abort or shorten their course. This treatment by vaccines of acute and chronic inflammation of the respiratory tract, Fisher regards as specific.

Furuncle.—K. Kerrild (*Ugeskrift for Laeger*) applies pressure with an invisible hairpin and thus squeezes out the contents centrifugally, which pressure works from below upwards. Other measures usually drive the contents in. He has applied this in fifty cases and in all the pustule healed at once and no new ones developed.

High Pressure.—David Riesman (*Am. Jour. Med. Sciences*) quoting his own experience, maintains a pressure of over 145 is abnormal, other things being equal, and that at the age of fifty years, a pressure over 150 is pathologic. In treating high pressure it is safe practice to endeavor to reduce the blood pressure when excessively high to a point where symptoms cease. It should be kept there if possible. The patient will rest better if he eats a small evening meal. As for drugs, the nitrites are valuable. If nitroglycerin fails, sodium nitrite, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 or even 3 grains may be useful. This will only relieve symptoms. They should be continued only when the pressure is rising. Reduction in the quantity of the diet is of importance.

Congenital Flat Foot.—Legg (*Am. Jour. Orth. Surg.*), in operating on congenital flat foot, transplants the tendon of the anterior tibial muscle to the periosteum of the under surface of the scaphoid. He employs a dry dressing, and puts the foot up in a slightly over-corrected position, from the toes to the knee, with plaster. It is kept in plaster from nine to ten weeks, when walking is then allowed, the arch being supported two months longer by a felt pad. When the plaster is removed, massage without manipulation, and hot and cold showers are ordered. The best results are obtained when the operation is performed about the fourth or fifth year.