

THERAPEUTIC NOTES

Endocarditis in Children.—Floyd M. Crandall says the management of the acute stage has been a comparatively simple matter—rest in bed for six weeks to two months. This quietness should be continued if the heart becomes irregular or too rapid. Difficult problems may arise, after the child is out of bed, with a murmur. It is a mistake to maintain restrictive treatment too long. As to exercise to be permitted, the action of the heart is the best guide under exercise. Arbitrary rules do more harm than good. Each case should be studied and the patient, rather than the disease, treated.

High Blood Pressure.—F. de H. Hall (*Clinical Journal*, London), places less value on drugs in arteriosclerosis the longer he watches these cases. Drugs with an aperient action are serviceable. First place is given to calomel and blue pill. In addition to their aperient action they have a remarkable effect in lowering blood pressure. Aperient mineral waters, or a teaspoonful of Epsom or Glauber's salts, may be taken in half a tumblerful of warm water before breakfast. Iodides come next to the aperients. Hall usually employs potassium iodide, but some tolerate the sodium iodide best. The Wassermann test should be made in syphilitic patients, and if positive, mercury should be given, preferably by inunction. He does not advise salvarsan in these cases. After a mercurial course, potassium iodide. Small doses of thyroid extract may be given to the obese or at the menopause, with a combination of bromide and iodide of potassium. This will be found useful in diminishing weight. It relieves the patient of flushes and feeling of fullness in the head. Chocolate tablets of potassium or sodium nitrite, one to two grain doses, may be tried, up to five grain doses, if the iodides are badly borne. Hall has got beneficial results from hippurates of ammonia and lithia in a few cases, usually using the latter, three or four grains daily. For emergencies he reserves the more powerful amyl nitrite, nitroglycerine and erythrol teranitate, as they act more quickly as vasodilators—such emergencies, anginal or dyspneal attacks. For very acute attacks the inhalation of three minims of amyl nitrite on a pocket handkerchief gives immediate relief. The action of this may be continued by 1-100 grain of nitroglycerine. This dose