Dr. F. F. WADDY, Visiting Consultant Anaesthetist to St. Andrew's Hospital, described the technique which he employed in the administration of curare and pentothal to patients who had been described by Dr. Adam. He emphasized the necessity for adequate oxygenation, and gave it as his opinion that the use of pentothal, and a relaxant such as curare or Flaxedil, necessitated the presence of a skilled anaesthetist.

A lively discussion followed, in which many members took part, and Dr. Adam and Dr. Waddy were warmly thanked and congratulated for their valuable contribution to the clinical aspect of an important therapeutic problem.

Before the close of the Meeting Dr. SKOTTOWE proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Tennent and the Governors of St. Andrew's Hospital. He said that the members had appreciated the excellence of the arrangements, and had enjoyed the high standard of hospitality which St. Andrew's invariably extended to the Association.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Association was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows on Wednesday, 21 February, 1951.

Thirty-five members and 2 guests were present.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Fergus B. McEvoy and Dr. P. Pearse O'Malley.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

The Secretary was asked to write to the relatives of the late Dr. Robert Taylor, expressing the sympathy of the Association on his death. The meeting stood in silence as an expression of sympathy to Dr. Honan, Dr. Dolphin and Dr. Moore on their recent bereavements.

The meeting unanimously accepted the kind invitation of Dr. H. St. G. Smith to hold the Summer Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday, 2 May, at Palmerston House, Palmerstown, Co. Dublin.

A letter from the Department of Health was read asking the Division to nominate a member of the R.M.P.A. to a new Board which the Minister for Health is setting up to act as the controlling body for Nursing and Midwifery in this country. The meeting unanimously elected Dr. Joseph Kearney.

Dr. MOORE then read his communication entitled "The Treatment of the Neuroses—a Report on a series of cases treated by inhalations of CO_2."

Dr. MOORE first outlined some of the problems associated with the treatment of the neuroses in general and gave a short account of the mechanisms believed to underlie the formation of neurotic symptoms. He then gave an account of Meduna's new approach to the treatment along physiological lines. On the assumption that the neuroses might, in fact, be due to physical disorder, he sought some agent which would act directly on nerve cells and fibres. Following the work of Lorento de No on the influence of carbon-dioxide he chose a mixture of 30 per cent. carbon dioxide and 70 per cent. oxygen for his experiments. He has evolved a technique which involves inhaling this mixture; at the first session twenty breaths with gradually increasing amounts until a satisfactory reaction is obtained.

Reactions may be (1) physiological, muscular twitching, jerking of the limbs, bicycling movements and unconsciousness, or (2) emotional abreaction with vivid dreams, and sometimes recall of repressed material. Thirty to one hundred or more treatments may be necessary, given daily or on alternate days, in the treatment of a neurosis.

A report on a series of 72 cases treated by this method at St. Patrick's Hospital. Dublin (about one-third of whom were treated as out-patients), was given.

Groups of illnesses which came into the following diagnostic categories were treated—anxiety states, hysterias, personality disorders and psychosomatic ailments. It was pointed out that most of these patients had finished their treatment too recently to make a statistical analysis of results a valid procedure. On the whole, however, results had been most encouraging, and a number of case histories were read in detail to illustrate the kind of case chosen for the treatment and the kind of results obtained. The rationale of the treatment was discussed, that is whether the favourable response was due to the physiological action of the CO_2 on the

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central nervous system or to the emotional abreaction obtained. The experience at St. Patrick's was that those patients who got a severe emotional reaction did the best. There were, however, a few cases who did very well, but had a physiological response only.

It was suggested that the method might well prove a significant advance in the treatment of the neuroses, but further experience would be required before a final decision of its status could be arrived at.

The paper was discussed by Doctors ALLISON, THOMPSON, DUNNE, H. J. EUSTACE, DOLPHIN, SMITH, O'SULLIVAN, KEARNEY, FOLEY and HONAN. Dr. MOORE replied to questions and the meeting adjourned.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

EIGHTH LIST OF TRAINING SCHOOLS APPROVED IN CATEGORIES SHOWN, 14 FEBRUARY, 1951.

Mental Hospitals.—Fulbourn; Graylingwell; St. Francis (Haywards Heath); Mental Observation Unit, St. Pancras Hospital (in respect of 6 months of the 2-year period under Rule III(*d*)).

Mental Deficiency Hospitals.—Aston Hall; Aycliffe Hall; Rampton.

Adult Clinics.—Horsham Hospital, Worthing Hospital, Royal West Sussex Hospital (in association with Graylingwell Hospital). Brighton General Hospital, Hove General Hospital, King Edward VII Hospital, Haywards Heath (in association with St. Francis Hospital). Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Highbury Hospital, Nottingham (in association with Aston Hall). Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

Child Clinic.—Brighton Child Guidance Clinic (in association with St. Francis Hospital).

NOTICES BY THE HON. LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Books are issued to borrowers during these hours.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

Library Lending Department Regulations.

1. Books shall be lent only to members within the United Kingdom and Eire who are not in arrears with their subscriptions.
2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.
3. Books and journals are sent carriage paid from the Library, but members are responsible for the books from the time they leave the Library until they are received back.
4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.
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7. In the event of a member failing to return any book or periodical within seven days after receiving notice from the Librarian (on the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 6), the Library Committee shall be at liberty to purchase another copy, the cost to be charged to such member, who shall not be allowed to borrow another book until the sum thus expended shall have been paid.
8. All communications should be addressed to " The Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1."

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