near relative, and he is examined by the hospital physician and found to be a suitable patient, he should be admitted forthwith as a voluntary patient. Right of refusal is, of course, vested in the mental hospital physicians. It was the opinion of the Sub-Committee that the principle of admission of a voluntary patient to a rate-aided mental hospital should approximate to the practice which is usual in the case of the admission of a physically sick person to a general hospital, or of a mentally sick person to a registered or private mental hospital."

*Note.*—The National Council for Mental Hygiene passed the above resolution in January, 1935, relating to the working of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930. It is the practical application and not the theoretical possibilities of the Act which prompted this resolution.

After the resolution had been read, the members present thought that the matter required further consideration. Copies of the resolution were handed to each member.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the presence of the Chairman, Secretary and some Members of the Committee of the recently formed Poole and District Medical Society. He said it was a great pleasure to the South-Western Division to welcome the Society and wished it every success in the future. He asked the Chairman to accept an inscribed board so that the names of its Chairmen could be recorded thereon from year to year.

Dr Mein, in replying on behalf of the Society, said he would like to say how much they appreciated the interest shown in their Society by the Division and for the kind invitation to lunch and to the meeting.

The place of the Autumn, 1936, Meeting to be held on Thursday, October 29, 1936, was left in the hands of the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

Dr. R. D. GILLESPIE (Lecturer, Psychological Medicine, Guy's Hospital) then read a most interesting paper on **"Psychological Factors in Physical Disease".** In the discussion which followed Drs. POTTS, DAVIES-JONES, GUIRDHAM and BENSON took part, and Dr. GILLESPIE then replied.

Dr. J. S. HORSLEY then gave his paper entitled **"Narco-Analysis",** and the following took part in the subsequent discussion: Drs. MOULSON, LEECH, HURLEY, GUIRDHAM and GILLESPIE. Dr. HORSLEY replied.

(This paper will be published in the July number of the *Journal*.)

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, a very hearty vote of thanks was unanimously proposed to Drs. Gillespie and Horsley for their papers.

During the morning members visited Hume Towers (the seaside home of The Old Manor, Salisbury), and were much impressed with the grounds and beautiful surroundings and also with the accommodation provided for the patients.

The members were kindly entertained to lunch and tea by the Directors of The Old Manor, Salisbury, at Branksome Tower Hotel, Bournemouth. Mr. W. F. Swords, K.C., welcomed them at lunch, and on behalf of The Old Manor expressed his great pleasure in being able to have the meeting at Hume Towers. On the proposition of Dr. J. L. Jackson a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Swords and the Directors of The Old Manor for their kind hospitality.

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## NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held at the Uffculme Branch of Winson Green Mental Hospital, Birmingham, on April 24, 1936, when nineteen members and three visitors attended.

During the forenoon members inspected Uffculme House and Bungalow, which provide pleasant accommodation for 160 male working patients, entirely on the open-door system.

Before the meeting members were kindly entertained to lunch by the Visiting Committee.

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The meeting opened at 2 p.m., Dr. Forsyth presiding in the absence of the Chairman.

The minutes, having been published in the Journal, were taken as read and were signed.

Apologies for absence were communicated from Drs. Edgerley, Barkas, Astley-Cooper, Skinner, Thomas and McGrath

The SECRETARY read the report of the Divisional Committee.

Dr. ARCHDALE presented a report as Representative Member of Council.

After ballot, the following were elected to ordinary membership of the Association :

CAMPBELL, MARGARET CATHERINE, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Assistant Medical Officer, West Riding Mental Hospital, Wakefield.
*Proposed by* Drs. Thomas, Burt and McGrath.

FREW, JOHN MCINTYRE, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, North Riding Mental Hospital, York.
*Proposed by* Drs. Russell, Fraser and O'Riordan.

The following were duly elected :

*Chairman :* Dr. G. Hamilton Grills.

*Secretary :* Dr. J. Ivison Russell.

*Representative Members of Council :* Drs. G. H. Grills, M. A. Archdale, C. J. Thomas and M. J. McGrath.

Dr. H. Dove Cormac was nominated to serve on the Nursing Advisory Committee.

The following Examiners were recommended for appointment by the Education Committee :

Preliminary Examination : Dr. Iain Ross Macphail.
Final Examination : Dr. Kenneth K. Drury.
Nurse Examiner : Miss V. A. Spratley (Warwick Mental Hospital).

A resolution of the National Council for Mental Hygiene relating to the admission of voluntary patients was discussed. By formal resolution the meeting supported the National Council's view " that, as a principle, a patient should have direct right of entry to a rate-aided mental hospital provided the patient's own doctor recommended his admission, and provided the mental hospital physician was of opinion that the case was suitable for inclusion in the voluntary category ".

It was further elicited that no one present had experienced any difficulty in carrying this principle into effect, but that in the Birmingham area the relieving officers were regarded as mental treatment officers, and by the medical superintendents' request and wish, all applicants for voluntary treatment were interviewed in the first place by the relieving officer.

A few members thought that the patient's settlement ought to be enquired into before admission, but this was out-voted by a large majority.

A majority thought that a recommendation from a patient's own doctor should not be required, but it was not considered worth while to delete that proviso from the resolution.

Dr. FORSYTH briefly related the history of Uffculme, once the residence of the Cadbury family, and thereafter successively, a hostel for social workers, an asylum for Belgian refugees, a war hospital and a Ministry of Pensions hospital.

Dr. J. J. O'REILLY demonstrated a case of Unverricht's familial or epileptic myoclonus. The patient, a boy, æt. 17, had suffered from epileptic fits from the age of 14, and at the age of 16 began to suffer from clonic spasms of the large proximal muscles of all four limbs, also of the muscles of the tongue and face. These spasms, which were almost absent at rest, became extremely marked on voluntary movement or emotion, sometimes to such an extent that the patient was thrown to the ground. The spasms lasted for a few seconds at a time, and occurred at the rate of 20 to 30 per minute ; they were absent during sleep. There was no wasting of muscles, no change in the electrical reactions, and no alteration in sensory phenomena.

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A sister of the patient has also suffered from epileptic fits from the age of 11, and from similar clonic spasms since the age of 14. The maternal grandmother was an epileptic, but was mentally normal and did not suffer from myoclonus. The patient's father was stated to have been peculiar mentally, but was not certified.

Dr. O'Reilly then discussed the differential diagnosis, with special reference to hysteria and chorea.

Dr. PICKWORTH mentioned the association of the thalamus with " shivering ", and suggested the possibility of irritation of the thalamic region from chronic sinus disease as a causative factor in the case.

The meeting closed at 4.45, and member were kindly entertained to tea.

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## SCOTTISH DIVISION.

BY the courtesy of the Directors and of Dr. W. D. Chambers, Physician-Superintendent, the meeting of the Scottish Division was held on March 20, 1936, at the James Murray's Royal Mental Hospital, Perth.

Dr. R. W. Clarkson, Divisional Chairman, was in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Before proceeding to the ordinary business tributes were paid to the memory of Dr. W. M. Buchanan, who had occupied the post of Divisional Secretary for several years, and in that capacity had done so much to further the interests of the Association. The Chairman read a letter received from Mrs. Buchanan thanking the Division for the wreath sent on the occasion of Dr. Buchanan's funeral.

A report was presented by Dr. J. H. MACDONALD outlining the preliminary arrangements for the Quarterly Meeting of the Association to be held in Glasgow on May 12, 13 and 14. Further elaboration of the details was remitted to the special committee appointed at the last meeting.

Dr. JAS. VALENTINE, Assistant Physician, Murray's Royal, Perth, read a paper on the subject of **" Alcoholic Addiction "**. Many members took part in the discussion which followed.

The Division was entertained to luncheon by the Directors under the Chairmanship of G. D. VALENTINE, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the County, who welcomed the members to Perth. Dr. L. C. BRUCE, on behalf of the members, returned thanks to the Directors for their generous hospitality. After luncheon the members inspected Gilgal House.

For the remainder of the afternoon and evening the members were invited to join with the Caledonian Medical Society, whose Annual Meeting was being held at Perth, and at which Dr. L. C. BRUCE delivered his Presidential Address.

## IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Dundrum, co. Dublin, by the kind invitation of Dr. G. W. M. Scroope, Resident Physician and Governor, on Saturday, April 4, 1936.

In the forenoon the members were kindly shown various sections of the Asylum by Dr. Scroope and his staff. Later, the members were hospitably entertained to luncheon.

The following members were present: Dr. J. C. Martin in the Chair; Drs. S. Blake, R. D. Brennan, W. J. Coyne, P. J. Cassin, T. J. Conlon, L. S. Clifford, Kathleen Dillon, F. J. Deane, J. J. Delany, J. Dunne, J. O'Conor Donelan, H. J. Eustace, Ada English, May FitzGerald, J. FitzGerald, P. Grace, T. A. Greene,

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