The discussion was contributed to by Mr. BAILEY, who had been doing cingulectomy with similar results, and Dr. TORRIE, who paid tribute to the high scientific standards of the two papers.

Dr. THORPE, in reply, stated that his criteria for leucotomy were that the patient was a failed E.C.T. case or that E.C.T. was contra-indicated for physical reasons.

Mr. HARDMAN, in reply, claimed that his criteria were that the psychiatrist recommended operation and he did what he was told !

After a vote of thanks, proposed by the CHAIRMAN and carried with acclamation, the meeting concluded with an excellent tea.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING, 1951, MEETING of the South-Western Division of the Association was held on Thursday, 15 March, at St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, by kind invitation of the Board of Governors and Dr. T. Tennent.

Twelve members and one guest were present.

In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Tennent was unanimously elected to occupy the Chair for the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Autumn, 1950, Meeting were read and signed.

Apologies for absence were received from eight members.

The Committee of Management reported that they had agreed to nominate Dr. S. M. Allan, of Exminster Hospital, as Chairman of the South-Western Division for the next year, and Dr. R. G. McInnes as Secretary. These nominations were agreed to by the Meeting.

The Committee of Management asked the Meeting to suggest names for a Junior Representative on the Council, and it was decided to appoint Dr. Philip R. H. Davis, of St. John's Hospital, Stone, Aylesbury, to this office.

It was agreed at the suggestion of the Committee of Management that Dr. J. M. C. Speer of Roundway Hospital, Devizes, should be asked if he could have the South-Western Division at his hospital for the Autumn Meeting, the date of the meeting to be arranged between the Chairman and the Secretary with Dr. Speer.

A letter from the General Secretary of the Association, giving the views of the Council on the resolution forwarded from the South-Western Division on the subject of the prevention of psychiatric illness and the provision of after-care, was received. A brief discussion followed, and the thanks of the Division were expressed for the Council's consideration of the matter.

Under " Any Other Business " it was suggested by Dr. DELFUN LEWIS that younger members should be given greater encouragement to attend meetings by setting aside a day or meeting for junior members only. Other members pointed out that it really rested with individual hospitals to arrange that their junior colleagues should get adequate opportunities for attendance at meetings. It was agreed that Dr. Delfun Lewis's suggestion should be considered by the Committee of Management, with a view to seeing how the idea contained in it might usefully be applied in practice.

A paper was read by Dr. PATRICK A. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., of St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, on " **The Selection of Cases with Physical Disease for Convulsive Treatment.**" He said that his experience with curare and pentothal had led to the adoption of a rather bolder policy in the use of electrical shock therapy in patients who might otherwise have been thought physically unsuitable for this treatment. He cited many cases of cardiovascular disease, organic nervous disease, or respiratory disease, who had done well on electrical shock threapy with curare and pentothal, and concluded that the danger of electrical shock therapy in many of these conditions had been over-rated. He thought that with careful selection and a highly developed technique for the administration of curare and pentothal, the usefulness of electrical shock therapy could be greatly extended to patients suffering from physical disease. He said that the dangers of pulmonary and nasopharyngeal infections were considerable in the use of electrical shock therapy, and it was also thought that an examination of the skeletal musculature was a more important preliminary than X-ray of the spine.

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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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