as a rule, in process of emptying most of its contents into the small intestine, and half an hour may mean all the difference between a fairly full stomach and a nearly empty one. We shall see that such a change of condition may more than double the influence of the alcohol on muscular co-ordination and on mental processes.

In all the experiments to be described, unless special mention is made to the contrary, we were careful to take our experimental dose either (*a*) with or directly after food, or (*b*) at least three hours after the last meal had been finished. It is probable that the average person who eats three substantial meals in the course of the day, and a light afternoon tea in addition, retains the food in the stomach for about the three hours mentioned, though the exceptional individuals who make a habit of taking only one or two meals a day, and these of a more substantial character, retain their food for a longer time.

### The Influence of Food on the Alcohol Effect.

The first three series of experiments to be described* were made at the instance of the Central Control Board, and were discussed and approved by its Scientific Advisory Committee. Two of the series were, in fact, made by members of this committee. Dr. W. C. Sullivan made sets of experiments on himself and two skilled typists, each lasting three to six weeks. Typing tests were carried out four times a day, sometimes without alcohol, sometimes with alcohol taken on an empty stomach, and sometimes with alcohol taken at

* *Cf.* Med. Res. Co. Report No. 34, 1919.