Neurosurgical Techniques

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The Treatment of Trigeminal Neuralgia by Section of the Posterior Sensory Fibers Using the Transdural Temporal Approach

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In September, 1938, we tried a change in technique in the operation of posterior rhizotomy for trigeminal neuralgia. The change was made in an attempt to avoid the occasional complication of facial paralysis associated with the Spiller-Frazier temporal approach. Dixon had called attention to the danger of damaging the facial nerve in the region of the geniculate ganglion by traction on the greater superficial petrosal nerve in the epidural space of the middle cranial fossa. Herrmann in 1940 reported our combined experiences from 1931 to 1938 with the extradural technique and from 1939 to 1940 with the transdural approach. Many neurological surgeons have found it necessary to use an intradural approach when dealing with a very thin friable dura that cannot be

Fig. 1. Temporal incision, dural exposure and dural incision for exposure of floor of middle fossa.