

are as frequently, almost constant unsanitary and even septic environments which defeat the most skilful work of the operator. Margins may be thoroughly prepared, and fillings most perfectly inserted and finished, yet there are a score of enemies, in health as well as in illness, which invade the finest finish. The author shows the dangers as well as the uses of matrices. "If separators have worked evil, matrices have proved even a more disastrous delusion." It would do most of our young practitioners good to study carefully just such experiences of practical men. They would discover in time that much of the practice which bewiles the young operator is condemned. Ligatures, clamps, and the whole paraphernalia of mechanical contrivances catch the fancy of beginners, who are unconscious of the mischief they commonly cause. The author has apparently put his full conscience as well as experience into his work. The publishers, as usual, have given us a volume, of which the most eminent book-publishing firms would be proud.

MARVELLOUS INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF GOLD.—The increasing annual production of gold in the world is a matter of such far-reaching economic importance, not only in the financial affairs of nations, but also in their industrial progress and in their civilization, that a vast amount of patient study has been given by eminent statisticians to the subject, and much time expended in compiling, from various historical records and other sources of information, statistical data which can be confidently accepted as approximately correct, showing the annual production of the precious metal from the time of the discovery of America down to the present day. A publication of the United States Treasury Department, issued in 1897, containing information respecting the production of precious metals, etc., gives statistical tables showing the annual production of gold in the world, commencing with the year 1493. The earlier records are taken from a table of averages for certain periods compiled by Dr. Adolph Soetbeer, and the later figures (from 1885 to 1896) are the annual estimates of the Bureau of the Mint. Other tables show the annual production of gold from the mines of the United States alone from 1845 to 1896, and it is from these official sources mainly that the information has been gathered for this article, supplemented, however, by a full and very interesting communication to the author from the Director of the Mint, giving the latest figures, not yet published, and containing the estimates and deductions of the director respecting the production of gold in the world in 1898. This information is so timely and valuable that the author is of the opinion that the courteous letter of the Director of the Mint in response to his inquiries, if appended to this article, may prove to