

grooved, will retain a filling? or when a tooth having lost a part, or even the whole crown, may be restored to its proper contour and articulation?

But while some men have gone wild over gold as a filling material, and held the opinion that gold only should be used, others have gone to the other extreme, and say gold should never be used. Some who once lauded gold up to the sky, now condemn it. A prominent dentist of Philadelphia, who was or great advocate of gold, now, it is said, has printed upon his cards, "No gold used." While it is wise to profit by the experiences of others, what are we to do with such conflicting evidence? We must then draw upon the evidence of our own experience. Let us look at the requirements of a variety of cavities. I once heard Dr. Jas. H. Harris, of Baltimore, clinical professor of the dental department of the University of Maryland, say, of the relative merits of cohesive and non-cohesive gold foil, "It is impossible for an operator to do justice to himself or his patients by confining himself to the exclusive use of either form." I would say the same, from my own experience of gold vs. other materials. A case is presented: A central incisor, healthy patient, good tooth, pulp well covered, plenty of room for retention; that case calls for gold. Another case: A central incisor, patient very delicate, of lymphatic temperament, enamel of tooth thin, labial and palatine walls gone, tooth extremely sensitive; that tooth calls for some preparation of gutta percha or zinc. Another case: A cavity on the posterior approximal surface of a molar; if the condition of the tooth would warrant the use of a metal filling at all, that case demands amalgam. In that position the discoloration of amalgam would not be an objection, and a more perfect filling could be made than could be made of gold in the same position, and with much less fatigue to both patient and operator.

To sum up. The advantages of gold are: density, enabling it to withstand the friction of mastication well. Indestructibility, enabling it to withstand the action of ordinary solvents. Cohesiveness, enabling it to restore the contour and articulation of parts of teeth which may have been destroyed. Adaptability, permitting it to be so closely packed to the walls of a cavity that moisture may be excluded. Retention of color, neither becoming discolored nor discoloring the tooth.