

and the preparation washed several times in salt and water with the pestle and the finger, and washed again with alcohol; then squeeze out as much more mercury as possible in a chamois, with flat pliers, and cut into small cakes to use. After the filling is in, rub its surface hard with a burnisher, and then finish by drawing a dry mouth napkin across its face, in one direction; if the mercury is well squeezed out, the surface of the filling will present a clean frosty appearance; and if the materials are pure and have been thoroughly washed, it will keep comparatively clean in almost any mouth. Her Majesty the Queen has had teeth filled with amalgam, by her state dentist. I do not mention this to prove that amalgam should always be used, but to prove that it can be used where gold cannot, and that if it is ever good in the case of a patient who can afford to pay for gold, surely it is a blessing to those who are poor.

ANNUAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE QUEBEC DENTAL
SOCIETY.

BY W GEORGE BEERS, L.D.S.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—An address, or an essay, without an apology on such an occasion as the present, would be much like a book without a preface,—both having become so customary; but as my excuse is not for neglecting the duty appointed to me in preparing the annual address, but an apology for not doing it well, because of personal inability and lack of time—having been compelled to defer it until the eleventh hour—and fully realizing the difficulty of the position, I trust you will extend to me your most lenient consideration.

I think we have good reason to regret that this first annual address was not assigned to one older, who could better have taken us back to the early history of dentistry in Canada, and traced its progress down to the present time in all its various stages. It would be a matter of deep interest, and more than local interest, to know something more of the early practitioners, their manner of working, and the facilities they possessed. Small as the sphere was for dentistry in Canada a quarter of a century ago, there were a few men whose names are known beyond our borders for their contributions to dental science, and much of whose work we find existing intact to-day in all its excellence and honesty. Spooner, as the discoverer of arsenic for destroying the dental pulp, was a Montrealer; and while the more conservative principles of the present succeed in saving hundreds of pulps which formerly were ruthlessly destroyed, the discoverer of arsenic served his generation, and has left his "foot-