

excluded a soft amalgam is worthless if both freedom from discoloration and permanence are required. An alloy used for amalgam, whatever its composition, is utterly unreliable unless every ingot has been carefully tested for shrinkage, expansion, packing and retaining its shape under water, and discoloration. However good an alloy may be generally, no single sample of it is trustworthy until after a series of tests which cannot be completed in less than three to six months. The difference between a tested and untested amalgam is the same as between a tested and untested steam boiler; one is trustworthy, the other possibly may be so. If a steam boiler is made to work at 30 lbs. 39 inch pressure, and is worked at 100 lbs., the failure, if it occurs, rests with the user. In the same way, if an alloy is made to work with 30 per cent. of mercury and is used with 100 per cent., the maker cannot well be blamed for unsatisfactory results.—THOMAS FLETCHER.

*(Brit. Journal Dent. Science.)*

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## HINTS AND QUERIES.

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Understanding that your independent Journal is soon to appear again, I trust you will give some hints and hits to Dental manufacturers. Is't there a sickening amount of bragging among them? G. L. [*See next number.*]

Is not the profession in Canada overcrowded? R. J. [*We will answer this in our next number.*]

Have you used the Eureka, or 15 minutes Rubber? T. H.

Will some one give us a concise and practical paper on Alveolar Periostitis? L. D. S.

Speediest temporary treatment for inflammation of the pulp? M. E.

Will some one with experience in the use of Phosphates give their action, especially directed to the teeth, and especially during pregnancy. [*We are already promised an article for the next number on this subject. We have used and recommended for several years Dr. Wheeler's preparation made in Montreal.*]