

the tooth with gold. After removing the rubber dam, I found the tin had slipped out to the margin and made a form like a crescent. It was for one of a family whose teeth were exceedingly soft. This was a very bad tooth, and was very sensitive at the time. I called the patient's attention to the fact, and watched that tooth with considerable care, and after three or four years I had to renew the fillings of teeth that had not been so lined, but this tooth was in a perfect condition, and it stands to-day, since 1869, a perfect tooth at the cervical margin.

I am glad to give my testimony in behalf of tin foil.

DR. ALBERT H. BROCKWAY (Brooklyn, N.Y.).—I am especially pleased with this paper, but we must not forget we have a great variety of cavities to fill, in a great variety of situations, in a great variety of teeth of different characters; so that, if you are to do the best thing for the patient, be extremely eclectic in practice. It is for us to determine what to use for a given case under given conditions. I am a strong believer in the use of tin foil in such cases as will admit of it. I use it more or less, and I use it for two reasons especially. The first is from its adaptability and facility with which a saving filling can be made in favorable cases. I am also inclined strongly to believe in its therapeutic properties. I am not so sure of this, but experience seems to bear it out. In soft, chalky teeth, where the conditions are not favorable for tin, we have to resort to other materials. I use it especially in children's teeth, in cases where tin foil has been strongly recommended, and in which recommendation I quite agree; but there are many cases in children's teeth where it seems to me that tin foil could not be used so successfully as other materials, notably gutta-percha.

I wished simply to speak of the limitations of the usefulness of tin foil.

DR. GORDON WHITE (Nashville, Tenn.).—I claim for tin, after having used it for nine years, that it is the best filling material that has yet been given our profession, excepting that it will not stand friction. I think it is the best tooth-preserver that we have. When I first used it I combined it with gold, and I found that the two foils worked very harshly in my hands. After using it a couple of years that way, I commenced to use the foils separately, covering the tin with gold. I find it works very much softer when the foils are not introduced separately.

DR. C. S. STOCKTON (Newark, N.J.).—It is not necessary for me to go over the ground so well covered by Dr. Darby, but there are people who come to me who are unable to pay the large fees that are requisite where you would use gold. I recall two fillings that I saw only a short time since, which were put in twenty-three years ago, I think. I filled those teeth by a plan recommended by Dr. Palmer, using mats of Abbey's soft foil packed up against the