

DEC
1913

CANADA

Journal of Dental Science.

VOL. IV.—AUGUST, 1877.—No. 1.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

PRESERVING DECAYED TEETH BY FILLING.

BY L. D. S., TORONTO.

A consideration of the subject of this paper has been suggested by the instances which, almost daily, come under notice, in which the dentist has from some cause failed in what has been considered the specific mission of dentistry, viz :—preserving decayed teeth by filling.

This failure does not, by any means, always arise from the same cause, but from many and widely differing causes.

In many cases doubtless from want of skill in the operator. In other cases the failure is induced by the patients themselves, in refusing to submit to so thorough an operation as was essential to success on account of the suffering necessary to be endured. In a large number of cases failure results from inattention to proper cleanliness after an excellent filling has been inserted. Others are undoubtedly due to hygienic and physiological causes, to a great extent beyond the control of either patient or dentist. To all, or any, of these causes of failure it is not now our intention to revert. The cases which claim our present attention are those which are manifestly due not to a lack of mechanical skill, but to an entire want of apprehension of the theories which underlie successful conservative dentistry, or a criminal negligence in carrying them into practice.