

place thereof. Therefore, as will readily be seen, an excellent margin is left, to which we can now grind down the filling with the same stone used in cutting out the trough, thus leaving a flush, smooth surface where tooth and filling join.

After removing decay and so forth, I go around the entire periphery of the cavity with very sharp chisels, cutting off the edges of the enamel so as to remove all projecting corners, working the lines of the same into rounded curves so far as possible, leaving few straight lines and no acute angles. The cavity walls should be perpendicular from the bottom of the cavity to periphery. The final cutting and shaping of the enamel walls should always be done with a very sharp chisel or an extremely fine corundum stone, as the fissure-burs and drills are liable to split, rough up, or pulverize the edges of the enamel-layers, so that no one could expect a filling to remain tight when packed against such a ragged wall.

While speaking of packing fillings, I am reminded of the recent expression of a gentleman which struck me as too good to be lost. After intently observing the process of putting in a gold filling for some time, he at length said, "I see you use Klondike gold." Not clearly apprehending his meaning, I naturally asked him how he knew—how he could tell Klondike gold from any other; and as I was passing a piece of gold through the flame to anneal it, he coolly remarked, "I see you have to thaw out every piece before you can use it."

Now, after a filling has been properly placed in a cavity prepared as above directed, extreme care being exercised in packing the edges properly against all the walls, etc., the process of finishing and polishing can be accomplished with some degree of satisfaction, for there is now little or no excuse for leaving an overlapping or imperfect edge, as we can distinctly see and know when we have worked the filling down to an even surface with the surrounding tooth, and nothing but solid filling is exposed to the wear and tear of mastication.

The use of this method of grinding the occlusal surfaces of the posterior teeth, is not recommended for deciduous teeth; for instance, if one is working for an uneasy boy, who is wiggling and twisting around until he gets his head into the cuspidor and his feet into your stomach while you are vainly endeavoring to keep a cavity dry long enough to get any kind of stopping in, does not tend to add any incentive to one's ambition to make and finish an extra fine filling; but for older patients this method will aid to secure the three requisites demanded of a filling which are strength, durability, and beauty, and which certainly are expected of an artistic crown filling.