

I might say something about the preparation of the root for a band preparatory to making what is ordinarily termed a Richmond crown. It is very necessary that the root be trimmed in such a way as to admit of having the band go well up under the free margin of the gum and fit the root accurately, and it is necessary to have the end of the root ground, giving it the proper slope, so that in putting your porcelain crown on you can locate it with reference to the antagonizing teeth.

The preparation of the root is very important. You must take that into account and must not let it escape, because imperfectly fitting bands are lacking in firmness. Where they are too thin is one of the great causes of single teeth coming away, and it is very important where we use a root in bridging to have bands made of gold sufficiently thick and a perfect fit. I had a piece of bridge work in my office made by Dr. Charles P. Grant, who made a very extensive piece of bridge work and attempted something that I hope has not been attempted very often since, that of making a full upper bridge permanent on two cuspid roots, saddling the ridge in the molar region. The doctor claimed the discovery of the matter of making saddles, and I guess he was one of the discoverers and possibly might have been the first. I have wished sometimes no one had ever discovered the matter of making a saddle to supply teeth on the back with any number of the anterior teeth as anchorages because I think they are weak, the pressure of the saddle on the gum is very great, and no matter how strong you make the attachment of the saddle to the anterior anchorage, it is very likely to give way. I do not believe in saddles.

After the teeth were treated the roots were cut off and the anchorages made like this (illustrates) with pins going up into the cuspid teeth. They were well made, and the only weak point and the cause of destruction of the piece at the end of three years—I wonder it did not give out sooner—was that he made the caps flat.

I think it very important the root should be hollowed out and the cap burnished down in after having been soldered on to the band. Hollowed in that way gives additional strength or hold to the pin. Filling this up with solder makes the cap stronger for anchorage.

In backing up a porcelain shell, especially in bridging over the anterior spaces, making dummies, or supplying the lines of centrals or laterals in bridge work, it is quite important that the edges of the porcelain should be well protected with gold. In reducing the length of porcelain I hold the tooth after it has been backed up—this representing the backing—I hold it to the corundum wheel, bevelling the gold with the tooth, and then wax on a piece of hard