

Tests made out of the mouth show that crystalloid gold under pressure will conform to surfaces which are very uneven, and the firmness with which it is anchored in the bottom of an ordinary cavity proves that it must fit the walls accurately.

If the cavity is a proximal one in a molar or bicuspid, the strip should be cut sufficiently wide to reach across the floor of the cavity from buccal to lingual wall. It should then be rolled large enough so that when laid lengthways in position it will cover well the cervical margin, and admit of being wedged firmly into place with broad pointed pluggers. Pressure should first be directed on one end of the pellet toward the cervico-buccal, or cervico-lingual corner, and then—though this is not always necessary—that end may be held firm with an instrument in the left hand, while the other is driven into place in the opposite corner.

There is not the same tendency for this gold to curl up after being condensed as with other forms, and if enough material is used to cover well the bottom of the cavity, and a broad plugger which will carry the mass before it instead of puncturing it, the feat of starting a filling in almost any cavity is rendered extremely simple.

This certainly cannot be said of ordinary gold, for although non-cohesive gold has been advocated for this purpose as being all that was desired, the fact is that we have found a large discrepancy between the theory and the practice. Non-cohesive gold will not in all cases stay where it is placed, and while much preferable to cohesive in this respect, it cannot be compared with crystalloid.

The main point, then, in starting a filling with crystalloid is to roll it carefully into pellets of proper size, which lessens the tendency to crumble. When rolled in this way it makes a tough, putty-like mass, which when manipulated with broad pluggers will prove a great comfort to those who have had difficulty in making the first portion of a filling firm.

The convenience of having pellets on hand has led the writer to roll up a variety of sizes during spare moments, thus saving time at the chair.

Of course, the gold should never be annealed for starting the filling, but if No. 3 be used for completing the operation it requires annealing to a red heat.