

### QUESTIONS.

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Q.—46. In Dr. Black's experiments with amalgam fillings at the recent meeting of the O. D. S., at Toronto, it was found that out of thirty-five fillings inserted in cavities in steel dies, only seven were perfect enough to have preserved teeth in the mouth. Many of the imperfect fillings were made from alloys which have been in use in the dental profession for a great many years.

How may we account for the preservation of teeth which we know have been preserved by fillings made of these imperfect alloys?

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### Reviews.

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*Descriptive Anatomy of the Human Teeth.* Fourth edition. By G. V. BLACK, M.D., D.D.S., Sc.D. Philadelphia: S. S. White, Dental Mfg. Co. 1897. \$2.50, net.

Coincident with the portrait of Dr. Black, which we publish in this issue, we are very glad that the publishers of Dr. Black's valuable work on the anatomy of the teeth have given us a timely opportunity to repeat, and to emphasize the special value of this treatise to every student and practitioner. The author does not write from any *cacoethes scribendi*, but from the depths of his experience as a practitioner and a teacher. Most of us from our earliest career realized the barrenness of teaching in relation to the anatomy of the teeth, in the systematization of our terminology. It made it almost as difficult to convey as to comprehend, even clinically. If Dr. Black had done nothing else for us than to systematize our nomenclature, he would deserve our gratitude, but the reader of this work will appreciate it all the more when he knows that in the special departments, and to a large extent in the special methods of investigation, he has been distinguished for his extreme care and an utter absence of the melo-dramatic dogmatism which has made some of our "scientific authorities" a screaming farce. The changes in the present from the first edition are enough to make the former obsolete. The glossary is alone worth the money and ought to be strictly taught and adhered to. A small volume devoted exclusively in the same terse way to the entire nomenclature of dentistry would be a boon. We look upon this work as the basis and ground-work of all sound and scientific dental teaching. It is a work as necessary to the practitioner as to the student. It is in itself a post-graduate course of the greatest value.