

he gave so much labor to could not have been done sooner and better otherwise."

Has not this same idea, carried out, been for some years the cause of keeping active minds from other means and remedies, which could have allayed much physical suffering to our patients, even under mere manipulation, and kept the operators themselves from a more extended and accurate observation of other filling materials? The tendency of this paper is not in any way that of gold *versus* plastic; but I cannot evade putting the question, "Have *plastic* fillings had the same trial, *in all cases*, in the same manner as gold? Would not plastic fillings probably show as good an average of *benefit given*, if their use was not always to a great extent considered *derogatory*, and principally used when we could not use anything else?" If certain plastic fillings are resorted to for frail and diseased organs, in order to save them, can we not logically reason that they will save organs that are otherwise, comparatively speaking, strong and hardy?

If we take the two most prominent filling materials now in general use, Gold *versus* Amalgam, the former used through educated hands, the latter through uneducated use, then this difference, notwithstanding, and principally on account of the want of a general educated use of both; I have no hesitation in saying, that, as many or more teeth, though often unsightly, have been preserved to their owners through amalgam than gold.

Is it necessary that patients should regard such plastic fillings as *inferior*, and that an operator fills a cavity with the poor (?) article in order to *save* it, at the same time informing his patient that it is "not worth gold," and time shows the frail organ still on duty; while a neighboring effort that caused much more patience and energy to deck in glittering garment of gold, must be patched up, renewed, restored, or something of that sort. And with what? Generally with amalgam—the poor cinderella of filling material! Is it not true that, for the proud privilege of being first-class and doing everything in gold, labor and time are sacrificed when certain definite kinds of teeth, and certain definite cavities in teeth, could be better manipulated with another material.

Inefficiency and unskillfulness need not be attributed to those inserting plastic fillings, for where the more conscientious effort is smiled at, the more successful will be the results attained. When and where to fill, what to use and how to use it, are the principal