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Practical Points in Operative Dentistry.

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ONTARIO DENTAL SOCIETY,—In preparing a paper on Practical Points in Operative Dentistry for your Society, the writer first of all looked over your programme so that he might avoid touching on any subject treated by other essayists. But the scope given the present paper by its title leads us naturally to the consideration of so many little points in practice that it will be small wonder if we at times approach the discussion of matters already introduced in the meeting. This, however, is not always an evil. Diversity of opinion on any subject is often a good spice to season a meeting and make it interesting.

The purpose of the paper is not so much to present new methods as to advocate the desirable features of methods already known but not perfectly developed by the average operator.

First, let us consider the use of the matrix. Here is an appliance which, on the one hand, has been lauded to the skies, and on the other has, with equal emphasis, been condemned to the bottomless pit. Probably the truth of the matter may be stated something like this: The matrix, properly used in skilful hands, with