

gold. Some of it comes to us at present, annealed, which renders it more adhesive, but that quality as we buy it, is of little importance since the invention of the annealing lamp. Crystal Gold is claimed by some, to be an improvement, but its merits are very questionable. My own experience with it is such that after having used it almost exclusively for more than a year I abandoned its use altogether.

Plugging instruments with serrated points, have crowded the old fashioned smooth ended (not pointed) ones from our table, and beside them is the knife edged slab of Arkansas stone to keep their points as sharp as needles.

The mallet, since it lost its occupation in the laboratory in swedging gold plates, has made itself useful at the chair in condensing gold fillings. Good fillings can be made by hand pressure, but it is beyond question that in most cases, they can be made more solid and durable by an expert use of the mallet.

With the use of adhesive or annealed gold, a radical change has taken place in the preparation of cavities. In the old system of *stuffing* teeth with non-adhesive gold, all that was desired was shelving sides or ends, which were sufficient retaining points, and after stuffing to completion and burnishing, made very good fillings, infinitely superior to some more dense but insecure fillings of the present day. With annealed gold we must either do *very* well or *very* badly. To do well, the foundations must be laid firmly, and solidly, and each successive piece of gold introduced as though it were a whole and not a part, until a complete "thing of beauty," and a joy for years, is produced.

One of the most prominent improvements in operative dentistry is in the treatment of that class of teeth where it has been necessary to destroy the nerve, or where it has died from exposure. The old fashioned method of sewerage was to fill the cavity of decay and then drill through the neck of the tooth to the pulp cavity for the escape of the constantly accumulating and offensive fluids and gases into the mouth. We now, after extirpating the nerve and thoroughly cleansing its canal, fill the fang as nearly as possible to the foramen with gold, thus avoiding the exciting cause of alveolar abscess, and under favourable circumstances even curing it where it has existed for years.

I might occupy much time in the rehearsal of improvements of