

cotton twisted around a fine broach makes a most efficient pump. Each dentist has a favorite preparation for roots—suffice it to say that whatever is used must be used thoroughly.

Having the canals clean and ready to fill, I do not dry them; but rather leave them full of root preparation, which is forced into every crevice by the filling.

The most important question is, What material for filling? When a tooth is healthy and the indications favorable, I use silver.

Even where there has been periosteal trouble, now cured, or even an abscess that has yielded to treatment, I recommend silver as the most impervious and safest material. Silver can be got into more difficult situations, and is surer to stay, than any other material. Silver is less likely to be affected by adverse circumstances in the canal; moisture and constriction do not prevent it from reaching its place.

In the case of cement, moisture is fatal to the proper pumping up of the material, and I doubt if one dentist in a hundred can get one canal in a hundred fit to hold cement.

Another objection to cement is that subsequent leakage through the apex must eventually disintegrate it in the immediate vicinity, and, once disintegration is set up, there is an end to all confidence.

The silver can be put into position by means of pluggers of various sizes made of piano wire and used in the broach-holder.

Filling a canal with silver is at first somewhat difficult, and never becomes really easy. The best way is to put a pellet in the pulp-chamber, and with a burnisher press it gently against the canal openings, then send it up the canal with the probe-like plugger, the end of which should be cut off square. This cuts a cylinder out of the pellet and carries it ahead right up the canal. Whatever small space is beyond is forced full of root preparation, which should be crystallizable, astringent and antiseptic.

In cases where there has existed chronic abscess, and a recurrence is feared, where it may some day be necessary to reopen the canal, I insert a gutta-percha point dipped in chloroform. These points I make by rolling gutta-percha pellets on a glass slab with a warm spatula. They can be rolled to any required length, thickness or angle. While I do not regard gutta-percha as equal to silver, yet it is the next best material where a non-removable filling is distinctly contra-indicated.³

It has been suggested to saturate the dead pulp with some powerful agent, and leave it in the tooth. This is little less than criminal.

The use of cotton saturated with preservatives as a canal-filling I regard as unscientific, careless, and the invention of a lazy man, whoever he may be. If there is such a thing as leakage through the apical opening, the preservative must in time wash out; then