

the cavities that are usually filled with amalgam, and the way in which it is often introduced, we are surprised that it preserves the teeth half as long as it does. Is it not a fact, that it is used principally in cavities where it would be impossible to fill with gold, either from the walls being too frail; to withstand the pressure necessary to condense a gold plug; to use the patient's words "not worth filling with gold" or it may be that the cavity is in such a position that it would be impossible (for some of us at least) to properly condense a gold filling. Then again, I think I am warranted in saying, that three fourths of the men in the profession, do not take the time, and the pains, in the preparation of cavities for amalgam that they do for gold. Why? Because they can mix a little amalgam and fill up a cavity of almost any conceivable shape and thus *hide* a multitude of imperfections, in the preparation of the cavity. Another reason, why cavities are not so thoroughly prepared, is on account of their usually much greater size, and consequently greater sensitiveness. Our sympathy for our patients while excavating the extremely sensitive denture so often found in large cavities, is often so strong, that we allow it to interfere with our judgment, and thus we "spare the rod and spoil the child." Now I ask, Is this treating amalgam with any degree of fairness? Of course I am aware of the popular objections to the use of amalgam 1st. That it discolours the teeth. 2nd. The poisonous effects, on the system, from the mercury contained in it. 3rd. Its liability to change its form in the mouth. The first of these objections, can scarcely be said to hold good at the present day, and especially in the back part of the mouth, and I do not think we should use it in the front teeth. The preparations now in use do not stain the substance of the tooth as the other preparations did.

The second objection if, it can be proved it is a very serious one. Tomes says in reference to mercurial poisoning from amalgam fillings. "I have never seen a case in which this result was produced. nor do I know of a well authenticated instance, and I think we may fairly conclude" that the instances are so rare that they need not influence our practice. Now I think if those cases of so called mercurial poisoning were thoroughly investigated, we would find that they all originated in *an incorrect diagnosis of the disease.*

Many of them that I have known have turned out very similar to the case given by "L D S" in the November number of the C. J. D. S. of "Salivation from pregnancy. I have a case now on hand very much the same as this. It had been examined by a Medical man and pronounced