

the cavity. True, it has its defects as we said before, no filling material is perfect, notably, its color, yet it is better, we opine, to have a badly discolored tooth in the mouth than no tooth at all. Far a broken down tooth, if poor structure, with frail walls filled with amalgam. With this, we shall remember that the amalgam used shall be such that the necessity of the case demands submarine facing, front tooth or contour. Another desirable filling is gutta-percha; this material has suffered in comparison with other filling materials, on account of defective manipulation. It is not our intention to speak of intermediate fillings, or those that are used to live cavities, hence we shall not mention this, that in large buccal cavities, having frail walls, gutta-percha should be the filling material; we remark in this connection, that the gutta-percha should be properly warmed and properly introduced, using for these purposes a gutta-percha warmer and instruments specially designed for the exclusive introduction of these fillings. We could go further and speak of zinc-phosphate, oxy-phosphate, oxy-sulphate and oxy-chloride of zinc and numerous other materials, yet we surmise that we have subserved our purpose, and end our paper with the saying, that tooth conservation should be the first consideration in the choice of a filling material, qualifying this statement by the remark, that if a tooth can be saved equally well with a filling that presents a beautiful appearance as with one that does not, the preference should be given to beauty, otherwise the first consideration—tooth conservation should invariably govern.

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### PRACTICAL THINGS WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.\*

By PROF. J. G. TEMPLETON, Pittsburg, Pa.

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In your programme, I see that one of the subjects is "Popular Dental Education." Now there are so many ways to educate people, and we obtain our education through so many different channels, that we have thought to suggest two things as being worthy of particular attention by our profession at the present time. They are, first, a much better preliminary education as a qualification for entering our profession; and, second, "*The suppression of the horrible* in dentistry."

However, I suppose that the meaning of the phrase, "popular dental education," has reference to the laity, so to speak, or the people at large. As it is well known to us that there is scarcely

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\* Read Before Ontario Dental Society.