

rubbed round the cavity with the instrument advised. *The more friction of the amalgam upon the walls the more certain of discoloration.* To sum up this matter, I say the best way to fill with amalgam is to work exactly as if you were building up a gold plug, and with similar instruments. Again, this matter of a wet pack; *that* will not go down here, even with something stronger than water. It is well known that many dentists are glad of an excuse for bad work, so it will be difficult perhaps to persuade them, if they be readers of your Journal: but is it not possible to dry, and *keep dry* a hole in a tooth long enough to put in *part* of the plug, and then dry *it* and then finish. I believe it is, and oppose any other idea. We used to have that told us about gold fillings, and also that *all* the decay need not be removed, but when we take up our work with a feeling like as if a brother dentist was looking on while we worked for his favorite child, we will hardly follow such foggy doctrine.

The writer draws it fine indeed upon the testing question, rather more than upon the more important using of it in the mouth. We heard a good deal about the tests that his 'Enamel' had, and the wonderful things it would do, when after all it was the old thing with a little clay. Good work is desirable and ought to be striven for, and our public teachers should try to avoid any advice savouring of the slip shod. Trusting this maiden effort will have the good effect I earnestly desire, I wish you success.

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## PRESERVATION OF THE CUSPIDS IN MECHANICAL DENTISTRY.

BY J. R.

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No artificial substitute can ever take the place of the cuspids, and for this reason I always save them if sound, or even when decayed if they can be preserved by filling. It often happens that they, standing like the pillars of an arch, are fixed and sound when all the others have come to grief. I have frequently found the hard tissues of these teeth under the microscope to be of denser and better structure than the others in the same mouth. Nature seems to have implanted them with a design which no artificial substitute can fulfil, viz: that of preserving the contour of the lips. The length and fulness of the root towards the front cannot