

is convinced, is often due to its not being sufficiently respected, too little time being given to the preparation of cavities, insufficient care taken in packing, and frequently no care in the matter of after polishing. If success is to be expected with amalgam every stage must be as carefully and accurately defined as in the use of the nobler metal. Mr. Robbins also advocates the use of osteoplastic materials to fill the large bulk of cavity, using amalgam only as a veneer, thus preventing shrinkage and discoloration to a large extent.

A HIGHLY instructive and scientific paper, entitled "Notes on Enamel and Dentine," was read by Mr. C. S. Tomes before the Odontological Society of Great Britain, and published in the transactions of that Society for February. Mr. Tomes was led to undertake this investigation by a study of Dr. Black's experiments published in *Dental Cosmos*, and while agreeing that Dr. Black's conclusions are in general to be relied upon, yet claims that more exact results may be arrived at by some improvements in the technique adopted. Dr. Black's method in examining specimens of dentine was to take slices from the necks of teeth, dry them at 100° C., and then incinerate them in a platinum crucible, the loss of weight being taken as organic matter. Mr. Tomes sawed across the teeth at the necks, drilled out the dentine with a spear-pointed drill, care being taken to drill out dentine only for examination. These shavings were dried in an even temperature of 100° C., for eight hours, weighed in a platinum crucible, ignited and weighed again. In order to restore any carbonic acid driven off by ignition the ash was moistened with ammonium carbonate, then dried and weighed again. As the turnings were not removed from the crucible during the experiment, and as about twice as much dentine was available by this method it was claimed more accurate results could be obtained. Mr. Tomes' experiments do not confirm those of Dr. Black, in which teeth from the same mouth differ more in their percentage of lime salts than teeth of good and fair quality from different mouths. From an examination of several jaws Mr. Tomes found that the corresponding teeth on opposite sides of the mouth gave the same results in every case, and also that the dentine of bicuspid and molars is more highly calcified than that of the incisors and canines. The one set of imperfect teeth examined gave lower percentages for all the teeth than the other more perfect sets, whereas Dr. Black's experiments went to show that teeth of poor quality are as highly calcified as those of good quality.