

As with most new appliances, and perhaps a little more than usual with this, there will be some difficulty at first in managing it, but it needs only persistence and some small degree of ingenuity to soon overcome all trouble, and in operations of any magnitude, it amply repays any difficulty that may be experienced in adjusting it.

In the large majority of cases after the operator has become a little familiar with it, it can be readily applied for cavities on the approximal surfaces of the incisors, and if gained, there will be as little trouble in adjusting it for approximal and crown operations in the bicusps and molars, and also in many instances of buccal decay. To insure success the material should be tough and elastic, which characterizes the best quality; the holes should not be too large, large enough to avoid any danger of rupture in adjusting, and sufficiently small to insure a water-tight joint at the neck of the tooth. The divisions between the holes should be broad enough to completely occupy all the space between the teeth when the rubber is distended, in this respect a little experience will soon enable the operator to judge correctly.

After the dam is in position it will assist in retaining, to wipe the teeth perfectly dry with spunk or bibulous paper, the rubber will not slip as easily on a dry surface, but if the shape of the tooth is unfavourable to its retention without other means, a ligature will be found an effectual fastening. The edge of the rubber should be inverted, after it is on the tooth, so that it will be toward the margin of the gum. If a ligature is used, that will accomplish it as it is crowded up the neck of the tooth, but if a ligature is not necessary to hold the rubber, the inversion can be accomplished with a thin burnisher or other blunt-edged instrument. It is especially essential that the edge should be inverted in cases where the decay extends beneath the margin of the gum, otherwise it will be difficult to carry it above the cervical wall. With right management the rubber can be carried safely above the cervical wall even in extensive decay at the neck of the tooth. The dam can be adjusted wherever floss silk can be forced between the teeth, and where that cannot be the teeth can be sprung by wedges, or a thin instrument. The easiest manner in the majority of cases is to carry the rubber down with the ligature. A thousand and one ways will suggest themselves upon repeated trials, and nothing but experience is needed to insure success. The material can be procured for four dollars per yard. A yard will furnish material sufficient for one hundred experiments at least. Cut it for use as wanted in sections about eight inches square. Use fresh pieces for the back teeth, and these can be used again for the incisors, cutting the holes nearer the margin. Wash the rubber thoroughly with soap