

where it was packed over sound tissue, thus affording a far better opportunity than ever for food and microbes to find secure lodgment, so a recurrence of the process of decay is, sooner or later, assured.

Now by what means can we overcome this difficulty, and otherwise improve this kind of work?

Some years ago, when I had applied myself long and patiently to the finishing down of a filling of this sort in some troublesome molar, I often felt assured that the rough, deep-fissured and crinkly-crowned teeth had a disagreeable habit of coming my way. I often experienced great difficulty in polishing coronal fillings to my own satisfaction, fearing that if much of the enamel was removed it might prove injurious to the tooth. I soon observed, however, that nature apparently had no scruples against removing enamel on the coronal surfaces of these posterior teeth, for in the mouths of many of my patients whose teeth showed little, if any, signs of decay, the enamel had been worn entirely through, and even into the dentine, by the friction of mastication. The conclusion finally drawn therefrom was something as follows: Where the enamel is very uneven, presenting deep folds and wrinkles, it is better to work it down by the use of stone wheels, cutting down between the cusps, forming semi-circular concave sulci, which should be polished to a smooth surface, so that there shall be nothing to hold accumulations of any sort; then in the act of mastication the food will easily glide across these surfaces, tending to keep them constantly cleansed and well-polished.

As all practitioners will doubtless admit, there is little danger of being too exact and thorough in finishing and polishing our fillings, although this is somewhat severe upon the endurance of our patients; but while performing this part of my task, I am often made to realize how difficult and painful is polishing of any description, especially is this true when applied to our every-day lives and characters.

Perhaps I ought to be rather more explicit regarding my method of preparing corono-approximal or even simple coronal cavities, as herein lies one of the chief objects of this paper. I remove the overhanging enamel so far as desired with chisels, then run out into the fissures, opening them up freely, even to the extent of "extension for prevention," with dentate fissure-burs or drills; then by the use of stone wheels I grind down into the fissures between the cusps, making moderately deep and concave furrows. All the natural and normal sulci between the cusps are followed, and in the molars, if necessary, from buccal to lingual and from mesial to distal limits; also the disto-lingual sulcus of the superior molars are concaved and ground out until all the fissures and wrinkles are entirely obliterated, forming an open furrow in the