

interfere with the plasticity of the material under the plugger, and yet it imparts to the mass a sufficient degree of toughness to make it work kindly.

It comes in four numbers. Nos. 1 and 2 are recommended for starting fillings; No. 3 for general and contour work, and No. 4 for use in connection with amalgam, where the latter has been placed along the cervical margin of deep cavities.

The writer has had no experience with No. 4, and very little with No. 3; but for starting fillings Nos. 1 and 2 come nearer being the ideal filling material than anything that has ever been offered the profession.

If it is not used in every office where gold fillings are inserted, it is because its good qualities are not recognized, or its proper manipulation not understood. From reports concerning its use it is feared that few operators handle this gold properly. It should never be used in flat pieces cut from the pads as we get them from the manufacturer. The layers of foil on the outside are so thin that used in this form they are liable to be punctured or torn, when immediately we have the same difficulty as with ordinary plastic gold—a crumbling of the material which makes it very unsatisfactory. One or two experiences of this kind are enough to discourage the operator, and it has too often been thrown aside without realizing that the fault was in the manner of working instead of in the material.

To properly start a filling with crystalloid gold one should note the kind of cavity to be filled and prepare the gold accordingly. If a small, round, "well shaped" cavity—often the most difficult in which to secure a firm foundation—a strip should be cut from the gold somewhat wider than the depth of the cavity. This should then be rolled quite tight until the pellet is so large that—standing on its end—it will fit snugly into the cavity. A plugger with point nearly as broad as the area of the cavity, and having shallow serrations, should then be used and the whole mass driven into place with hand pressure. If used in this way the gold will in every instance stay firmly impacted in the bottom of the cavity, and will not roll or tilt when other gold is added to it. An ordinary crown cavity in a molar or bicuspid—especially the upper—is more than half filled by this one pellet, and with the assurance that adaptation is good if the force is properly applied.