amalgamated; none of the other metals will answer as they would not stand in the mouth.

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES IN FILLING 'TEETH. BY DR. R. C. MOWBRAY, DENVER, COLORADO. Read before the Illinois State Dental Society.

The fact that a large per cent. of fillings, from the hands on he average talent of our profession, fail to effectually preserve teeth, forces the fact upon us that the "essential principles in filling teeth" are not as generally known, and not in constant practice, as they should be.

The "principles" presented in this paper, are those whose observance are obviously necessary to success. It is familiarly stated "no two operators operate alike;" yet, if principles were understood, I am confident there would be more uniformity in operating, and greater success as to the result.

For the better consideration of our subject, we divide it into, first, principles to be observed in the preparation of cavities, and, second, principles for filling properly prepared cavities.

PREPARATION OF CAVITIES.

1. Have well formed instruments, nicely tempered and sharp. From the unadaptability of instruments not unfrequently decay in a remote portion of the cavity is not removed; or, if removed, it is by the exhaustion of an unnecessary amount of time. If an instrument is poorly tempered it cannot retain an edge; hence, it annoys the operator and gives the patient unnecessary pain.

2. All decay should be removed from a cavity previous to filling. Of late some operators of fair reputation, have ventured to leave a portion of decay in cavities that nearly or quite approach the pulp, in teeth where a calcareous degeneration has removed a large per cent. of lime salts, and a gelatinous dentine (if I may be allowed the term) presents itself. Subsequent loss of the tooth is the general result. It must be distinctly understood, the slightest decay cannot be tolerated. I admit with candour that soft and partially disintegrated dentine over the pulp may occasionally be permitted to remain, but more teeth have been lost than saved by this treatment.

All decay should be removed from deviating crevices and undercuts. Crevices and undercuts are the secret homes of vibriones, the protococcus dentalis of Schrott, the parisitic fungi which "suck out and destroy the structure, at whose expense they increase and multiply." It would seem these fungus parasites cling to the crevices and undercuts with great

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