

has not been used, the compound should be held in a napkin or tissue paper, as in the act of taking the impression between the thumb and finger, the napkin will prevent burning the fingers should any melted alloy escape. The tapping can be done the same with the hand until the alloy begins to set. This will insure a sharp reproduction of the edges of the cavity, and a little practice will enable you to do it easily.

After you have produced a matrix imbed this in a little plaster-of-Paris, either on the bench or on something that will make a firm foundation, or fasten in the bench vise and proceed to fill with gold, or dismiss your patient and make the filling at your leisure; gold foil pellets, ropes or fibre gold can be used for making inlays, holding it with an instrument until you get it well anchored, or if the shape of the cavity is such that it may start, one or two retaining pits can be made at the bottom of the cavity, burnish thoroughly and partly finish the filling in the matrix.

To remove the filling hold the matrix over a spirit lamp and as soon as the alloy melts a little from the edge of the inlay give the matrix a quick jerk and the filling will come out clean, and a perfect inlay to the tooth cavity.

In building up a bicuspid or molar tooth, after the cavity is prepared mould a little wax into the cavity, and ask your patient to close the mouth. This will give the articulation of the opposite tooth; this placed into the matrix and arranged on an articulator will enable you to complete the occluding surface without any subsequent grinding; when placed in the tooth cavity, make slight undercuts with a wheel burr at the sides, also some little depressions in the base of the inlay. Use any good cement. mixed to a creamy consistency.

Before the final adjustment of the inlay try it in the cavity and see if it fits perfectly at the edges; if it does not, a perfect fit can be secured by holding the filling with an instrument and burnishing it to the edge of the cavity.

Fill the cavity with the cement, and force the inlay into place, holding it firmly for a few moments, and then coat the edges with sandarac varnish. After a short time it can be finished up or left for a subsequent sitting.

It may seem to you from the description of this operation that it must take a long time to make these fillings. I can only say that you will be surprised, after becoming familiar with it, how quickly you can make them.

I wish to say before closing that you will find the impression and matrix system equally as good for porcelain inlays, and you will get positive results by burnishing the foil into the matrix,