

It is hard to convince some minds of the value of conserving the teeth. Take, for instance, the fellow who despised the dentist that charged him fifty cents for popping out his tooth so easily, and lauded the tooth carpenter, who charged him only a quarter for dragging him all round the room for half an hour—he could realize the value received. There are unfortunately too many of this class yet. No reasoning has any effect on them; their minds are too obtuse; the only way to reach their brains is to give them a large amount of punishment for a small amount of pay; in other words, humbug them.

Brieflets.

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Often in putting in plastic fillings, especially where objection is taken to the use of the rubber dam or napkins, it is found very difficult to keep the cavities dry. The following method will be found very convenient under such circumstances: First, heat a small piece of impression compound, then dry off the gums surrounding the teeth to be operated on by means of a pellet of cotton saturated with alcohol; with the thumb and forefingers force the compound over the teeth. It is well to mark on the compound the exact point where the cavities lie. Having done this, while the compound is yet soft, cut out that which overlies the cavities. Carefully remove the *debris*, and it will be found that the lingual or palatine wall (as the case may be) remains intact, in compound. Should any trouble exist in getting the compound to remain in position, better attachment may be had by drying off the gum, and painting it over with copal-ether varnish. This will dry very quickly and adhere firmly.

In the above method the irritation to the sensory nerves is not so great as in the use of either the rubber dam or napkins. Greater freedom is given the patient to swallow the rapidly increasing flow of saliva, and, above all, the advantage in having the palatine wall built up so easily and perfectly, alone repays. If much space exist between the teeth, a portion of compound may be left to act as a matrix between two fillings.

Often after a black rubber plate is polished, it presents a very inferior color—a grayish black. This may be removed by the application of carbon bisulphide. Dampen a cloth with the solution and rub the plate vigorously wherever required. It is well to wash the daubing thoroughly after the use of this solution, as there might otherwise be a tendency to nausea.