

Quite as frequently you find in spite of all your warnings and the care of the patient, that while in a plastic condition the filling has been fractured. You now have an opportunity of rectifying all this. It is impossible to properly fill and polish an amalgam filling at one sitting.

A new amalgam which has received considerable attention during the past few years is composed of pure copper and mercury. I have experimented with it during the past four years, and in my estimation it is a material of considerable value. It cannot be used in places in teeth that appeal to the eye, as it discolors badly; but in soft teeth, where everything else has failed, I have found it invaluable. It is particularly useful in deciduous teeth, being very plastic, and not affected by moisture as other amalgams. I know it is the fashion to condemn this material—"the blackest sheep of them all"—but it has done so well for me, in cases where I had despaired of ever putting in anything more permanent than cement, and had begun to doubt whether the fault was with the material or myself, that I must say a good word for it. One case was that of a young lady for whom I refilled with silver a dozen or more cavities that had been filled a short time before, only to find on her return for professional services six months later thirteen additional places that needed attention, this time not only cavities that had been filled by her former dentist, but also a goodly number of those I had so carefully re-treated. I refilled her teeth, using copper amalgam. A few months ago she was in my office and I had the pleasure of again examining her teeth. Two years had passed since the introduction of the copper; meanwhile she married and had a child, passing through one of the most trying periods for the teeth. Her health, if anything, was not as good as when I had last seen her, and yet I found but *three new* cavities. Comment is unnecessary.

Another case was that of a lady who had come to the conclusion that nothing could save her teeth, unless perhaps having them filled every year with cement. I found her mouth in a deplorable condition; decay had taken place around the gold and amalgam fillings; one of the worst cases I ever saw. I filled several of the worst cases with this material, the others with cement. The result was gratifying in the extreme. At the end of the year I replaced a number of the cement fillings that had worn away with the copper. She returned on a visit to her old home in New Hampshire, and while there had her teeth examined by her former dentist, who had obstinately refused to use the copper amalgam in his practice. The copper amalgam fillings in her mouth convinced him of its value. I received a letter from him some time ago, in which he stated that the amalgam in soft, frail teeth had more than exceeded his expectations. I have used the copper only in teeth