

most and in the mouth affect it least. When distinct rules are given (if that will ever be possible) through such experiments, to repel the ravages so easily discovered, but not more easily combated to-day than previously, then will I become also an extremist, and lowering my flag to Dr. Flagg, shout: "*Le roi est mort—vive le roi!*"

Any man with ordinary common-sense (and this kind of sense is anything but a common virtue) has filled and fills teeth in his attempts to resist decay, in the same manner as the original "new departure system," though he does not throw such an important filling-material as gold is in educated hands, at the same time overboard—thousands of teeth can be shown, most effectually resisting further decay through gold, and thousands also can be shown where other materials, plastic, etc., are effectually doing the same purpose.

The total condemnation of one material or another can only be founded on bigoted error. Gold, in *certain* places, is the best of filling materials; amalgam and other plastic preparations, in certain cases, are as "good as gold;" whereas, in other certain cases, amalgam and other plastics are of use to the dentist, where gold is a "delusion and a snare," and still in other varieties the plastic is better, in fact the best of all materials, but in connection with gold, so that we see without the one or the other we are literally nowhere, and where that is—as Dr. Atkinson would say—"only God-Almighty knows!"

The prevailing eulogism, "he is a first-class operator," refers only to a man's capacity to use gold, and has kept hundreds of first-class men, through the exclusive mechanical use of this material, from devoting their energies to a development of other substances of as great a value to dental science—besides evading the mental strain and physical exhaustion suffered by the patients, and especially by the operators themselves.

Speaking with a N. Y. dentist, of reputation as a conscientious operator—who was travelling to build up a broken-down constitution—in a conversation on this subject, he replied to one of my queries, "Why am I done up, simply by the wear and tear of a first-class operation—by putting in difficult fillings in inaccessible places?" As to my query, "Why," he replied, "I must keep up my reputation!" I may have observed that he, in addition, made a remark to the effect that he had "conscientious doubts if the work