

You need not fear cutting down crown surfaces or fissures, for with adhesive gold this may all be replaced. Make the cavity thoroughly open, and put a mat upon the bottom; then build up, packing toward the walls. This is first class, and anything short of it is short of the highest attainment in our science. It has been stated here to-day that the cylinders make the most perfect and solid fillings. It is not true,—they will not do. Begin and build up solid from the bottom. Do not object to the heavy foils, but with No. 4, if you have proper instruments and operate correctly, you will obtain good results.

You must understand how to have your instruments right, and encourage our manufacturers. What is one or two dollars for an instrument? The difference of a line will make an instrument unfit for use. Just pay them to put the talent in it; have the serrations fine. It is most essential to have a fine point. Don't put the instrument on with a nervous force or jerk, but steadily, and press it down, holding it tight; then with the lead mallet strike a following blow, and let it not spring off; this vibration is what hurts the tooth. You strike with a steel mallet, or wood, or bone, etc., and bounce it off, but with the lead you hold the instrument until after the blow dies away.

In a recent case of atrophy with ridges and pits, I used the rubber dam and immediate wedging; had an 8-oz. mallet and very light instrument. The instrument should be in length in proportion to its size, and all according to what you may wish to do. With regard to mallets, I have a band of iron made, united with hard solder, and run the lead into it for a head. The making of the gold foil is confined to the manufacturer. We know there is a difference between adhesive and soft foil. I want that with a beautiful, bright, metallic surface. One-third of the value of gold is destroyed by pressing it in a screw-press, leaving the mark of the paper upon it. To use it I cut the foil, let it fall upon a napkin and roll it up with that. This roll is cut in pieces or attached at one end, and then built around. For annealing, the tube of the lamp should be made of platina or glass, so as to have a flame free from oxides. Be careful of the match, as the phosphorus may injure the gold.

I will describe how I filled a left superior lateral incisor, where one-fourth of the labial wall was cut away to get at the cavity. Get a perfectly smooth and straight labial wall; do not bevel it at all. This is done to have it strong. It may be started with a small chisel,—let it be strong and sharp. Then use a file to prepare the edges; get margin or edges all right; proceed until the cavity is fully prepared; with a fine drill, make a small retaining-point, or make little grooves. It is astonishing how much little pits will help to retain the gold. The rubber dam