

The sealing of the cavity with cement is certainly much more reliable than with plaster of Paris. After the hardening (the cement will harden under water), the crown cavity is carefully prepared for the introduction of the filling. All undercuts, etc., and also the cervical margin, are cleared of plaster, or, rather, of incompletely hardened cement, and every trace of superfluous material is removed. The cofferdam is then applied, the cavity dried, and filled in any way desired.

Of 243 teeth, which I have filled during the last two years by this method, I had to record in the early part of this time only four failures, which, however, are to be accounted for by insufficient cauterization and defective cleansing of the pulp cavity; yet even in these cases the pains (pulpitis) which supervened disappeared on the repeated application of arsenic. Periostitis did not, however, occur in a single case. I prefer, therefore, this method to any other, and have discarded definitely the filling of the roots after the cauterization of the pulp.

With pulpless teeth this method cannot be adopted; in the treatment of these teeth the antiseptic filling of the entire root-canal cannot perhaps be avoided.

Discoloration of the dentine is not to be feared by the employment of this method, if due care has been taken to cover the charcoal at the transparent dentine layers.

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HOW TO STERILIZE INSTRUMENTS WITHOUT DANGER OF RUST.—Iron, steel and nickel only rust when exposed to the combined action of carbonic acid, moisture and oxygen. If any one of this triad is absent or neutralized, the metal remains unaffected. Certain alkalis neutralize the carbonic acid in water, and when this is neutralized no rust forms on metals when immersed in it. After careful experiments, Levia has found that the best alkali for the purpose is natrium hydroxydatum causticum (NaOH). He adds a small quantity of the crystals to boiling water, and after they are entirely dissolved and mixed, he immerses the instruments and boils them *ad libitum*, with never a trace of rust nor tarnish when they are taken out. One-fourth of one per cent. or even less of the natrium is sufficient, but it must be pure, with no sulphur, as this causes rust. If knives and scissors are wrapped in gauze to protect the edges, they can be effectively sterilized in this way without the slightest injury of any kind. It is equally effective and non-injurious for drainage tubes, etc., but it is not adapted for aluminum nor silk and it softens brushes. If the instruments are left afterward wet and exposed to the air, rust will form, but they can be kept several hours, if necessary, in sterilized water to which 1.5 to 2 per cent. of the natrium has been added.—*Wein. klin. Rundschau.*