

cited in which its use (rather abuse) has destroyed the life of this valuable structure. There are other objections, but these which I have noted seem to be the principle ones against its employment in this direction. As to the first mentioned, it is only necessary to state that our endeavor should be in the preparation of such cases to rid, if possible, the pulp and entire decayed cavity of the least indication of disorganized tissue or any like impurities. Should there none form after the operation, the difficulty is overcome. To the second objection we would reply that a judicious use of the os-artificiel, when well prepared, would obviate all such results, as the chloride is not taken into the circulation, and it is hardly probable that its use would destroy the pulp, unless employed in such quantities as to produce a great amount of inflammation.

The manner of introducing this material, and its consistency at the time it is introduced, tends as much, probably, to govern the results of the operation as any thing else concerned, and is, no doubt, too often overlooked or entirely disregarded, and failures from such neglect are credited to the material.

Should it be mixed too thick or allowed to dry out too much before introducing, the force required to adapt it closely to the walls of the cavity would give rise to congestion and consequent inflammation, or if placed in gently while thick as before, then there would exist a lack of cohesion in the particles of the filling; also, imperfect adaptation to the exposed surface of the pulp, the result of which would be crumbling of the cap upon introduction of the filling over it, or a place left between the shield and pulp, which condition would surely induce strangulation and death of the part involved, while a reverse of this mixing and introducing it of too thin a consistency would prove equally disastrous. We are all aware that a solution of chloride of zinc enters into the composition of os-artificiel, and that it is endowed with powerful escharotic properties, and in case we should incorporate this substance too freely with the calcined oxyd, its effects would not only be very powerful, but would tend toward the production of no small amount of irritation, and probably to such an extent that the vital forces would not suffice to re-establish healthy action. We will grant, however, the possibility of there being sufficient reaction of the recuperative powers to counteract the irritation existing, in which event we have left for our consideration a thoroughly charred surface of the pulp at the point of exposure. The question now arises as to the probability of the char remaining