

cavities were alike—in short, if all conditions were exactly alike, then it would be possible to obtain an amalgam that (again supposing all dentists to be equally skilful) would in every case be equally successful. No one pretends to assert that Copper Amalgam will do for every case—it does not take the place of other materials. It simply performs a service which they cannot do so well, or are utterly incapable of doing at all. It only fills a niche that before was unoccupied, but it fills it well, and those of us who know the importance of being always prepared for an emergency cannot afford to be without this valuable adjunct to our filling materials.

But Copper Amalgam is not so very new, after all. Every now and then someone comes forward, who says he used it years and years ago—thirty and even forty years ago—and it seems strange that we are only now beginning to learn about it. Why, two years ago—when I read my paper—all I knew about it was derived from my own personal experience with it, an experience which was only acquired after years of study and experiment. It must not be supposed that I arrived at my conclusions in a hurry, and, could I only have had the assistance, or even encouragement, of a co-laborer, my endeavors would have been sooner crowned with success. When I began my experiments in this line, I searched diligently all the Dental literature available, to obtain any information bearing upon the subject. I waded through reports and correspondence without number. All our text-books, scientific works, works on chemistry and encyclopedias were silent on the subject. All I could find out about Copper Amalgam was very little indeed, and very unsatisfactory; but what little I could hear only spurred me on. I managed incidentally to learn that such a compound was used somewhere in the wide world by alleged dentists, with crude and uncivilized ideas, still I had never seen the material in or out of the mouth. I had never seen a dentist who had used it, nor had I ever met a dentist or anyone else who had seen it or known of it being used as a filling material for decayed teeth. Moreover, I was led to believe, from what little mention I could find of it, that Copper Amalgam, from its poisonous and other unpleasant qualities, and its disagreeable name and associations, etc., was wholly unfit to be used for Dental purposes. All that was bad in amalgams generally, I was told, was a hundred-fold intensified in this. If ordinary amalgams discolored the tooth, this turned the tooth such