

A PLEA FOR AMALGAM.

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Your article in the last number of the "CANADA JOURNAL OF DENTAL SCIENCE," headed "Are our Dentists lazy fellows" has led me to think, that communications have not been coming in as fast as you would like, and that possibly a few words from, even a beginner, might find their way into your columns, and perhaps be the means of inducing others, better qualified than myself, to give you some assistance in your most important work. I hope Mr. Editor, that you will be flooded with articles, from all quarters, articles too good to be consigned to the flames or the waste basket, and that in consequence you will be obliged to issue the "CANADA JOURNAL OF DENTAL SCIENCE" monthly, instead of quarterly as at present. I think the profession in the Dominion of Canada is well able to support, at least one, real live monthly journal and that too, independently of any college or manufacturing establishment.

The theme I have chosen may be said to be a hackneyed one, be that as it may, I consider amalgam one of the most important subjects of the day both to the profession, and to the public,

What every dentist should strive to do, and the only true system on which to work, is to give to his patients, the greatest possible amount of good, for the least possible amount of money. If we can do this with amalgam, or tin, or any of the cheaper fillings, let us recommend them : but let us first consider, and be certain that we are doing what is *best* for our patients.

I think you will agree with me, when I say, that many of our patients, and in some of our practices, the majority of them, cannot afford to pay for the time and skill employed in making elaborate gold fillings. Now what are we going to do with these? must they suffer with the toothache, and finally be obliged to lose their teeth, because they cannot afford to pay for gold fillings? In a great many instances this is just what will take place, unless we use some of the cheaper fillings. We may use Tin, Hills stopping, or even Oxychloride, in some cases, but on the grinding surfaces of the teeth, gold and amalgam are the only fillings we can rely on to resist the action of the teeth in mastication.

Then the question arises. Will amalgam make durable fillings, for cavities in the back teeth? I contend that teeth *properly* filled with amalgam will last as long as if filled with gold. When we take into consideration