neck." This is not only vulgar but true, as it is generally that part of the tooth anatomy that shows first the mischief created by the operator's greed for money, his desire to have people to be his patients: "Who put that beautiful filling in for you?" and also the patient's folly in the desire to have a filling that presents a fine appearance, as if this was only the great desideratum. Let us not be misunderstood, not be misinterpreted; we believe that in many cases gold is one of the best, if not best, materials to fill teeth. In teeth of hard, dense structure, in which the cavity of decay does not imperge on the cervical wall of the tooth, gold can properly and advantageously be used as a filling material. We have seen gold fillings inserted in such cavities, and they stand as monuments to the manipulative skill and wisdom of the practitioner who so successfully inserted them. In these cases we have consideration of the teeth, also beautiful fillings, hence gold was the proper material to be inserted in those and similar cases. Now, in teeth in which we cannot (in view of the fact that we wish to conserve or preserve the teeth) introduce gold,—what materials are at our command? We will not here speak of an ideal filling material, we have no such; we know what its qualities should be, such as regards color, non-conductive, non-irritating, easy of manipulation, etc., but seeing that, like the ideal man, it is not here, but in heaven, we shall deal with what we have.

The first is amalgam—let us first define what an amalgam is. We cannot give a better definition than that of *Prof. Flagg's*, viz.: "One or more metals held in combination with mercury by the mercury form an 'amalgam'!" This abused metal was born under most unfavorable circumstances, in fact, in the home of quackery; yet, in spite of its inauspicious birth it has risen above its primitive surroundings and become a respectable and most worthy member of the noble family of desirable filling materials. No filling material has undergone such tests as the descried material. Those who used it were threatened with dental excommunication, and some members of the profession who were convinced of its utility as a conservator of tooth material were formally excommunicated from the American Society of Dentists, for their temerity in using, and also advocating its use to others. These pioneers in dental advancements found that amalgam made from dental alloy unscientifically compounded, rudely and improperly introduced into cavities of decay, imperfectly prepared, "saved the tooth." Thus it was that many a tooth remained in the mouth of the patient to do excellent service for years, instead of being rudely consigned to the dental cuspidor. If this were the result in the past, what should be, and we say is, accomplished with amalgam to-day, when it is prepared on scientific principles when it is accurately tested, and when it is properly inserted into