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A REPLY TO "USERS OF AMALGAM."

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I take exception to the gist and tenor of the selected article. "To Users of Amalgam." I do not know how many years the writer has been in the practice of using amalgams, or to what extent he has been able to follow and observe the real test—use in the mouth; but my experience of twenty-five years, and a considerable amount of what the Scotch call gumption lead me to present a different view of what will be found "a better, method.

In the first sentence he says, "the best form of instrument is a small ball-headed plugger, &c. Now he must have had in his mind only one type of cavity, and in this country, a type rarely filled with amalgam—a round small hole. But, Mr. Editor, how about the hundreds of jagged, irregular cavities, having almost no form and certainly no comeliness? I think I shall become bald-headed, before I can make a ball-headed burnisher do first class work in such cases. When it is remembered, that amalgam is *filings*, more or less coarse, in combination with mercury forming a *granular* mixture, it ought to be obvious to most, that the *best* way is to pack a filling with points almost square or eight-cornered, much after the way we make a mould in sand, from circumference to centre, layer upon layer. Plugs put in in such a manner will be found perfect in their adaption, and less likely to discolor the dentine, than when