

MISSION OF THE MATRIX.—And this is the mission of the matrix, to give certainty, where there might be possibility of a doubt; to lessen fatigue by infinitely diminishing obstacles to be overcome; to make possible that which in many mouths is otherwise impossible. Everybody knows what the mission of the rubber dam was and what a boon to suffering dentists and their equally suffering patients; second only to that in importance and value is the mission of the matrix.—*Dr. G. C. Daboll in Dental Review.*

ADMINISTRATION OF COCAIN.—Dr. G. E. Hunt thinks that the "per cent. solution" in cocain is very largely responsible for the many noticeable ill effects, as few dentists put up their own solutions, and have but hazy notions of the number of grains employed. He suggests, instead of the usual method, that the intended dose be dissolved in an indefinite convenient quantity of water and the entire amount exhibited. This will impress dosage on the operator as no other method will, and has the additional advantage that each solution is fresh, when administered, and therefore is more reliable than if prepared for some time.—*Dental Register.*

AS to making fillings wet I hardly know how to speak strongly enough in its condemnation. It is true any tyro can put amalgam in a wet cavity, and it is also true that the amalgam will hold together and will become hard, and it may stay in the cavity for some time. But such a filling will leak all the same, no matter what amalgam is used, no matter how it is manipulated. The walls of the cavity cannot be perfectly dried by pressing in the filling. Therefore it will be leaky as all sub-marine fillings are, and always have been. It is abominable that men of this day and generation will persist in doing such slop work and call it dentistry.—*Dr. G. V. Black, in Dental Practitioner and Advertiser.*

AMALGAM.—Mr. C. Robbins read before the British Dental Association an interesting paper on "Amalgams in Every-day Practice," in which he advances some strong arguments in favor of this much abused article. The fact of its increased usefulness, in spite of all that the "hobby riders" have said against it, is a proof that it is a case of the "survival of the fittest." Some of these same hobbyists are altering their views and using amalgams. In the essayist's opinion amalgam is an "absolute necessity" to an honest man who desires to do the best thing for his patient. Although gold is the royal metal to use under circumstances favoring it, amalgam has the advantage over gold of being useful in frail teeth, where gold would not be permissible, as in cases of patients with poor reserve of health. The failure of amalgam, he