

by shortening the plugger, too, that there was no danger of missing the stroke; as when using the seven inch, and keeping the eyes fixed on the cavity and the gold, the tapping was often guesswork, and the blow very irregular. In difficult cavities, however, I found myself entirely unable to do justice to the work, and I abandoned the short pluggers. The objection to an assistant may in most cases be removed by a little explanation of his value, previous to his appearance, and during the operation he should be kept as much behind the chair as possible, in cases where patients are unreasonably prejudiced. It is much better, however, that the assistant should be able to see the point of the plugger.

2nd. Having obtained and trained an assistant, your work is at a dead stop in the event of his absence, as much as the sound of an organ in the absence of the boy at the bellows.

3rd. There is danger of the assistant executing a sort of cadence in malleting, instead of taking time from the indications of the operator. I had a lad whose musical propensities were so often aroused by the monotony of his work, that I often fancied I could detect in the variation of his blows, an imitation of the air of "Cheer, Boys, Cheer!" I dispensed with his services in double quick time.

4th. There is considerable risk of fracturing enamel and edges, and somewhat more risk in frail cavities than with hand pressure; but, as I said before, these risks are associated with all methods of filling, and an operator who cannot regulate and avoid these contingencies with the mallet, had better never use it. Very much depends upon your assistant. According to his intelligence and practice, should your care be. To increase and diminish the impactive force is much easier with the hand than the automatic mallet, if your assistant is well trained. I regulate this by numbering strokes, 1, 2, 3, 4, and make the assistant begin by 1 strokes, at sufficient intervals of time to enable me to control the gold, and use a little hand pressure ahead of the mallet. Great care is necessary to regulate the intervals, so that the stroke will not be delivered too soon. The variations of blow may be regulated by the words light, hard, harder, slow, quick, &c., as the operator may see fit. A simple nod of the head may be used as an indication of the time to strike, if the assistant is not well enough trained to judge for himself. The blow should be a sudden, springing tap, direct upon the end of the plugger. The handle should be screwed tightly into the head of the mallet.