

## DISCUSSION.

DR. E. T. DARBY.—The author of this paper has certainly paid a very high, and I don't know but a very worthy, tribute to tin. There is nothing new in the paper, as far as I know; the use of tin almost antedates the use of gold as a filling material. The French first used lead, then tin; tin was used as early as 1800 in this country, to the exclusion of almost every other material. In the earlier years of my practice, tin foil was used a good deal, and amalgam very little; there was a prejudice in the minds of many practitioners against the use of amalgam, because it was composed of equal parts of silver and tin combined with mercury. Consequently, the chief metal used was tin. Soon after I began to practice for myself, someone suggested to me a good method for preparing tin. Make an ordinary sand mould, and then melt chemically pure block tin in a spoon and pour it into this mould, making the tin in the form of a corundum-wheel. This is put on a lathe, then with a very sharp chisel the tin is turned off, making shavings as thin or thick as desired. They can be made exceedingly thin, and are exceedingly tough.

During my college days, some members of the Faculty said tin would weld, and others said it would not. I took a tooth to my room, cut the crown off, and invested the roots with plaster of Paris, restoring the whole crown to its natural size with tin foil. I polished it up nicely, then took it to one of the professors who questioned the cohesive properties of tin, and said to him, "This tooth has been built up with ropes of tin on two retaining points." He said, "You have melted that tin." I said, "No, sir, I built that up in my room under the eye of some of my college mates, and it has been done as I said." He expressed surprise. I have kept that tooth, and show it every year as one of the evidences of the cohesive properties of tin.

I have always said that tin was one of the very best filling materials we have. I believe more teeth could be saved with tin than with gold. Whether tin possesses the antiseptic properties in as great a degree as is claimed by many, I sometimes question, but I do know that tin has a saving quality that we do not always find in gold. The method of combining tin and gold is not used. Dr. Jenkins, of Dresden, was the first advocate of filling teeth with tin and gold. I have been in the habit of combining tin and gold in some cavities, but I do not see any especial advantage in it. I cannot see that the filling is any better by incorporating the gold with the tin. There is but one disadvantage that tin possesses, so far as I am aware, that is its color, but in all approximal cavities that are exposed to view, I believe the average dentist will do as well with tin as with gold. I believe if the dental profession would use more tin, they would save more teeth. For children's teeth I