

slight disintegration and as a result the tooth is an easy prey to caries all along the border of the filling. I care not how near the cement may be to the edge, in fact I take pains to plaster cement all over the cavity, but I also take the precaution of removing every particle from the very edge, after packing my first layer of amalgam, so that when the filling is finished, there will be no cement to dissolve out.

In cases where the pulp has been removed, the support received from the cement is of the greatest benefit, because the longer a tooth is pulpless, the more brittle it becomes. Amalgam directly in contact with dentine in a pulpless tooth, does not discolor with the result of preserving it, as in the case of a live tooth, and if no cement is placed under it, disintegration takes place sooner or later.

In cases where the teeth are firmly fixed, secure space by separating previously to the date set for filling if possible, otherwise great difficulty will be experienced in getting a proper contact with the adjacent tooth. In cases where the side walls are broken down it is always safe to secure space, but if the side walls are still standing and enough of the tooth remains to keep a correct contact between it and its neighbor, it is not necessary in young subjects to separate. The pressure of amalgam against the matrix is sufficient to counterbalance the little space taken up by it between the teeth.

In my experience the most humane method of securing space is by the use of the Perry two-bar separators. I have no wish to advertise these articles for the sake of the dealers, but if a greater number of dentists realized the wonderful benefits following their use, their patients would receive the blessing, and they would receive the patient's thanks. I had one of these separators ten years before I had demonstrated to me the proper use of it. Immediately I bought the others of the set, and since that time have had endless satisfaction. Separation may be secured in many ways, but with the exception of the tedious process of filling the cavity with gutta-percha and allowing it to remain for some months, there is nothing will move the teeth apart so easily and painlessly, and do so little damage to the teeth and surrounding tissues as the Perry separators.

Many forms of matrices are used and all have their advocates who obtain good results, but for contouring the approximal aspect of a tooth, standing in correct relation with its neighbors, the only universally satisfactory matrix is one cut and fitted to the particular case in hand.—*Items of Interest.*