

D-e-n-t-i-s-t," which he construed and pronounced in his own way, "A-dam Strong Dentist." "Ah!" exclaimed he, "that's the man for me; no weak dentist could ever pull my teeth."

We cannot fail to observe that names and titles often influence our minds very perceptibly, either pro or con, and my head-line may possibly serve to remind us of our duties in elevating our profession to the highest standard of excellence, realizing that our operations, although matters of every day occurrence, are by no means lacking in importance; for, without any disposition to boast, we may say that many of them truly require fully as much delicacy of manipulation, skill, and experience, as anything that is done in any other branch of surgery.

Every dentist prides himself on his ability to place a nice crown filling in a molar; but who has not found such cases (generally, of course, the work of some other dentist, but *occasionally* our own) where decay has continued to work about the filling, evidently from some of the fissures which extend deep into the tooth between the cusps? Many of the posterior teeth that we are called upon to fill present prominent cusps, between which the sulci penetrate very deeply, the enamel usually wrinkling in such heavy folds as to afford an excellent lodging-place for food-particles and acidulated saliva, and these are usually allowed to remain until fermentation takes place. The chemical action thus induced penetrates and destroys the thin enamel at the bottom of the fissures, then attacks the dentine, and as this neat little operation is hidden and protected by the heavy folds just mentioned, extensive decay often occurs before it is detected.

Perhaps it will not be improper to here mention that this has heretofore been the generally accepted notion regarding the cause of decay in the teeth; but now, a "germ theory" has sprung up, in which it is claimed that certain germs, resulting from the aforesaid fermentation, are really the cause of the mischief. We will not stop to discuss this matter here, however, as it amply suffices for our present purpose to know that said decay exists, as above stated.

It is an extremely difficult task to properly place a crown filling, even after all decay is carefully removed, the various fissures freely opened up, and the desired shape obtained, without allowing the material—whether gold or amalgam—to overlap the margin of the cavity, and especially to continue along the line of the fissures for some distance beyond the true edge of the cavity; consequently, a little barb or point is usually left extending along the bottom of the fissures for some distance beyond the true edge of the cavity and also beyond all signs of decay. By the action of mastication, or from other causes, this little barb or projecting finger of the filling is almost certain to become raised or started up from its bed,