

The next subject for consideration is that of *Crystalloid Gold*. The essayist is desirous of bringing this material prominently before the profession of Ontario, as it has proved a source of the greatest comfort to him in his practice. It is his belief that by its use in the cases indicated a large number of cavities now filled with amalgam may almost as readily be filled with gold to the advantage of the patient and the satisfaction of the operator.

In treating on this subject, the writer feels he cannot do better than read a short article of his published several months since in the *Dental Review*. It substantially contains his present views, and probably has not been read by any of your members.

Various forms of so-called plastic or sponge gold have from time to time been offered to the profession, but none of them has come into general use. A partial reason for this is the peculiar nature of the material, which calls for peculiar methods of manipulation not easily grasped by the ordinary operator. But probably the greatest drawback to its use by those who have studied it most, is its tendency to become granular on the slightest mismanagement.

An equal rapidity in manipulation would entail a greater waste of plastic gold than of foil or pellets. In short, plastic gold has not tenacity of fibre enough to make it work conveniently as a filling material.

But it has two desirable qualities which should not be lost sight of. It is more readily adapted to the walls of cavities, owing to the ease with which its particles—not being fibrous—will slide over each other and spread under pressure. Then again, the same characteristic conduces to an even surface on the filling, which is not always so readily obtained with the ordinary foil. It is doubtful if fillings made from plastic gold have the strength—would stand an equal strain if built into contours—that have those from a more fibrous material, but the report of operators who have had long experience with it, seem to favor the conclusion that a better surface will be retained after years of wear than with any other form of gold.

To overcome the disadvantage of plastic gold and at the same time retain its desirable qualities, Mr. R. S. Williams, of New York, hit upon the idea of enclosing between two sheets of foil, a layer of plastic gold. The foil is exceedingly thin, so it does not materially