

surface. The labial cavities of the anterior teeth and the buccal cavities of the bicuspid and molars will not as a rule require any preparation with cement, as the shape of these is usually larger at the orifice.

Approximal cavities of incisors and cuspids should be cut away and properly shaped from the palatal and lingual sides. Approximal cavities of the bicuspid and molars should be so formed that they will present a pyramidal shape with the base of the pyramid at the occluding surface. The object of this shaping of the cavities is to facilitate the withdrawal of the impressions.

The impression compound which I shall show you is the result of a long series of experiments in this line of work, and I present it to you with the full confidence that it fills a long-felt want not only for the making of matrices for gold and porcelain inlay work, but for reproducing the exact shape of the crowns and roots of teeth for crown and bridge-work. When ready to take the impression, carefully dry and protect the cavity from moisture, and with a small piece of the compound between the thumb and index finger force the material into the cavity, using enough force to make sure that the compound occupies every part of the cavity. Gently withdraw the compound, and examine to see if you have a perfect impression of the shape, angles, sides and edges of the cavity. When you can use an impression cup it is advisable to do so. If there is any tendency of the compound to adhere to any part of the cavity, a little lycopodium sprinkled upon the surface of the compound will obviate any trouble in that line. Around the impression place a small band of very thin German silver, copper or platinoïd. This band should be at least an eighth of an inch larger than the cavity impression and about one-half inch high. Be careful when placing this band that you do not disturb the impression. The edge of the band should be pushed into the compound, so that there will be no chance for the alloy to flow underneath. The impression is now ready, and a matrix can be made with fusible alloy. To obtain a fusible alloy suitable to make a perfect matrix has been a source of quite a little trouble and expense. Most of those in the market are wholly unfit for the work. I have experimented until I am happy to say that I have succeeded in making one that possesses the essential qualities, viz.: one that melts at a low temperature and yet is hard enough to make a sharp and perfect reproduction of the impression, is non-shrinkable, and does not deteriorate by remelting.

As soon as the alloy is poured into the band onto the impression, tap the impression cup gently on the table, or when the cup