

silver on the market contains more or less impurities; it is almost impossible to find them free from a small per cent. of copper, and if silver contains a small per cent. of copper it will harden. I have on exhibit here pure silver precipitated into chloride of silver by salt and melted; this is made into foil and amalgamated, it is pure silver and does not harden; another sample is precipitated by copper plate, then washed and dried; you see this does harden just a little, but this does contain a small per cent. of copper, and you will find about all the pure silver on the market does the same. Silver coin is about nine-tenths fine, that is, it contains one-tenth of alloy, which is copper.

The coin was cut down with a file and mixed with mercury, the excess being removed by compression with pliers, the material then being ready for the cavity.

In 1848, Dr. Evens, of Paris, introduced an amalgam alloy consisting of tin and cadmium, which, owing to the shrinkage and discoloration, was soon laid aside. This amalgam of Evans was not made of tin and cadmium; it was pure cadmium, and has been reproduced in this country twice since, once by Dibble and again by the Boston Amalgam Co. Evans, in 1845, found that his fillings not only turned yellow but the whole tooth also turned and was destroyed. When this was introduced by the Boston Amalgam Co., I tried my best to stop its use, knowing that it would cause a great deal of harm.

The Amalgam Co. threatened to sue me for damages; however, it was short lived and the dentists soon found things just as I told them, the fillings and teeth were turned yellow; then they threatened to sue the Amalgam Co., and it went out of business.

Cadmium makes a beautiful alloy; it amalgamates very clean and hardens very quickly, but it is entirely worthless as a filling.

Amalgam was introduced into this country by two French adventurers named Crawcour, who opened an office in New York in 1835. The great pretensions of these ignorant and unskilful men, their charlatan methods, their pecuniary success, and the fact that their "royal mineral" contained mercury, called out the most decided protests and bitter opposition from the leading men of the profession. The attack was prompt and vigorous, and the repeated failures from operations which ignored putrescent pulps and other diseased conditions added the victims of the fraudulent dentistry to the army of opponents. Defeats quickly followed, and these imposters were forced to fly.

Though the Crawcours were driven away, the "amalgam question" was not settled. For many operations and not a few