

of the moisture as possible ; it is now dipped into the powdered Kalium Arsenicosum, and before withdrawing from the bottle knock off the surplus powder, place it into the cavity, and spread with a ball-pointed plugger, after which seal the cavity with a cement filling, or even in some cases wax will answer. The sealing of the cavity is not done to prevent the drag from coming out, for fear of injury to the soft tissues, as it is harmless to them, but to prevent the saliva from getting into the cavity and diluting it. As it is soluble in water this would impair its effects. After a few hours its action is perceptible, but after twenty-four hours it is absolutely certain. In one or two cases, after twenty-four hours of application of the obtundant, it showed symptoms of slight hyperæmia of the pulp, but which disappeared without therapeutic treatment, simply leaving the tooth alone for a day or two. I have had good success in very young as well as with older patients. I have placed a large quantity of the drug into the cavity of a central incisor of a girl of sixteen years of age, and left it forty-eight hours, covered with Fletcher's cement, without any evil effects, and was able to excavate and fill the cavity, in one sitting, when, before the application, it was so painful that I could not touch it with an instrument. Four months have now passed (August, '94), during which I have seen the patient several times, and we are both satisfied with the filling.

In what respect does the Kalium Arsenicosum fulfil the foregoing conditions : (1) From its chemical nature it has no decomposing influence on the salt of the dentine. A very thin piece of dentine placed into a fifty or one hundred per cent. solution of the drug for three days underwent no change, either in weight, shape or surface. (2) As before-mentioned, it has no devitalizing effect upon the pulp ; and the trivial symptoms of slight but quickly disappearing hyperæmia are very seldom. On experimenting I have placed it on to a largely exposed pulp, three or four times, at six to eight hours' intervals without the slightest diminution of the sensitiveness of the pulp. (3, 4, 5) I may remark that the easy application, painlessness and certainty of effects have been proven, both by experimenting and in practice. (6) It is not a caustic. It does not corrode the soft tissues of the mouth ; it acts upon the mucous membrane the same as any other indifferent salt, such as table salt, natr. carbon. or magn. sulp. Should it get into the stomach the quantity required to obtund a tooth is so small that it would have no effect whatever. A good-sized pellet of cotton would contain about three-fifths mgm. of the drug, whereas the human system can safely take from one-half cgm. per dose. It can therefore be used with impunity, more so than arsenious acid, which surely is not an innocent drug. The Kalium Arsenicosum does not discolor the teeth. It is only used to anæsthetize the dentine, and in no wise to devitalize the pulp. You will therefore distinguish in exca-