

nearly hard, and imperfect preparation of cavities, may be mentioned as injurious.

Oxyphosphate is irritating to a pulp partially or almost exposed and its employment as a direct capping is therefore an abuse.

The last abuse of cement to be considered now, is its non-use, referring chiefly to its capacity as an intermediate, in deep-seated cavities, either over a capping where the nerve pulp is partially exposed, or directly applied where the cavity is merely large and deep, for the purpose in either case of lessening thermal shocks, and, perhaps, of strengthening frail walls. How often have all dentists been applied to for relief, by patients suffering from acute periostitis, caused by dead pulps destroyed by irritation caused by large metal fillings, where the insertion of non-conducting intermediates might have prevented the trouble. Not only so, but have we not had even to remove metal fillings actually penetrating the nerve-canals?

In speaking of the non-use of cement, we may allude to neglect of young permanent teeth, badly decayed and of very poor quality. A girl of thirteen, whose every tooth, above and below, was decayed, said that she had been taken to a dentist two years before and was told by him that there was no use in filling her teeth. In such a case we know that, if at all possible, the teeth should be preserved until about the age of twenty-one years, when alveolar ridges will be harder and not subject to so marked absorption which is the cause of so great permanent injury, rendering the retention of artificial dentures more difficult, and permanent disfigurement of features. For anterior teeth and often the posterior as well, the material indicated is cement, which should be replaced as often as necessary.

Dental Dots.

By Dr. BEACOCK, Brockville, Ont.

Rubber dissolved in chloroform is one of the most useful articles in the laboratory for repairing cases.

Bacteria are the smallest of all known organisms, and though near the border-line between animal and vegetable life, are commonly classed among the plants. They increase and multiply, and are endowed with a peculiar quality called life, yet they have not the power to move from place to place, only as they are carried by the air or by instruments to the mouth, by dentists or physicians, or various other ways. They are propagated by spores, from one to several may be liberated from one cell. These spores are much more difficult to destroy than the parent cells.