

pliers, not as dry as you can, because there will not be sufficient quicksilver remaining to thoroughly organize the filling, but it should be so dry that packing will not bring free quicksilver to the surface of the filling.

After the material is prepared, the next step should be to protect the cavity and filling from moisture as completely as in gold filling, then dry out thoroughly, and with a blunt plugger or bur head drill tapped with the mallet, carefully introduce small portions of amalgam into all undercuts and retaining points, adding piece after piece, until the entire restoration is made; after which, all ragged edges and surfaces should be nicely smoothed, and the patient requested to call next day to have the work finished.

The amalgam, at the end of twenty-four hours being well set, take your burnishers, and with gentle taps of the mallet thoroughly condense the entire surface; be as careful as in gold filling to burnish nicely at the junction of the filling with the tooth, then, with sand paper and polishing powder, finish nicely, and my word for it, you will have a serviceable piece of work.

A CURIOUS CASE.

By H. G. WEAGANT, L.D.S., Morrisburg.



A young man, apparently about nineteen years of age, came into my office to have a tooth extracted, at the same time saying that he was in a great hurry and wished to catch the train, which was due in a few minutes. I hastily examined his mouth, and found the gums very much swollen, and a large abscess formed above the tooth. The tooth, and in fact, all the other teeth, of which he had a complete set, appeared to be perfectly sound and healthy, regular and all but the end of the fang well developed. I proposed lancing the swelling to let it discharge; but this he would not allow, saying he had not time to wait and did not care to save the tooth, as it had already given him enough pain and trouble. I extracted it easily with the forceps, and at once saw that it was deformed. For obvious reasons I let it drop in the spittoon, and as it fell I noticed something, which I at first took for dead pulp, detach itself from the tooth and adhere to the side of the spittoon. I picked it up and laid it upon the table. I thought it looked like a soft undeveloped molar tooth; but before I could examine it more closely, the patient caught it up, tore it to pieces and tossed it away. About a wine-glass full of thick yellow matter followed the extraction of the tooth. Upon examining the tooth I found no signs of the pulp remaining.

[The above cut is a fair illustration of the case. Ed. C.J. D.S.]