

probability gave rise to the employment of means for its entire destruction. Shortly after this, metallic capping merged into use, sheet gold taking precedent, though on account of its conducting properties, soon yielded its laurels to lead and other materials of less heat-conducting powers, all of which have gradually fallen into disrepute; lead from its ease of adaptation to the wall of the cavity, and from the supposition entertained at one time that the oxyd deposited beneath the capping proved beneficial in allaying inflammatory action, has enjoyed quite an extensive reputation. In the mean time, chemical science has not failed to appreciate the difficulties of our position, or been derelict of her duty, but has advanced nobly to our assistance, and presents a material for our consideration which bids fair to eclipse all of its predecessors, and already opens a new era in the capping of exposed pulps. Its composition is chloride of zinc, in solution and calcined oxyd of zinc; and, I believe, the credit of first using this article as a filling for decayed teeth is due to Drs. Keep, of Boston, and Metcalf, of New Haven. Since then, not unlike other articles of merit, it has come very gradually into general use, improving in quality as its deficiencies were ascertained and the demand more extensive, until to-day it occupies a position enviable indeed, standing upon its own merits an auxiliary in operative Dentistry worthy of our esteem and recommendation. As a protective shield for an exposed pulp it has not been in general use many years, though for complete fillings and other purposes in which it has rendered valuable services, it has withstood a fair test for a considerable time.

All materials employed, or that have been in general use, and every theory linked with practical application in the Dental catalogue, has been burdened more or less with imperfections and objections, and as a matter of course, oxy-chloride of zinc has its complete share, and if we were to judge and be governed by the opinions of a few, it certainly has an overdose.

Prominent among the objections urged against the use of this article as a shield over an exposed pulp is, first, that it is entirely too porous, consequently, when in close proximity to the pulp, would have a tendency toward absorbing all poisonous or effete matter existing at the point of contact, thereby rendering it unfit to be placed in such near relation with living tissues, laden as it would be with such impurities; second, that the escharotic properties possessed by the chloride is dangerous to the life of the pulp, and many cases are