

and appliances are described and illustrated and no one ever says a word about them afterwards. Some dentist brings forward a new theory, and devotes pages in proving it, and no mention is ever made of it from that time forth. There certainly must be strong grounds for keeping up this Copper Amalgam question for so long a time, and it seems to me that a solution may be looked for in the fact that dentists saw in Copper Amalgam the very thing they have been wanting for years: the missing step, as it were, in the range of filling materials, which would, in numberless cases, enable us to avoid the dire necessity of the forceps. Since dentists have come to see the value of plastics in the great work of tooth-preservation, we have been on the look-out for this very material. Though thousands of different amalgams, alloys, cements, and other plastics have been brought out and used, and over and over again manufacturers and others have claimed that they were perfect, we now see how universal was the feeling that they were far from perfect, else why the avidity with which Copper Amalgam has been snatched at and lauded to the skies? When it was only proved that it possessed those tooth-preserving qualities that were also claimed for other amalgams? We know of numberless amalgams guaranteed not to shrink. We have seen test tubes containing beautiful amalgam fillings that defied the shrink-detecting aniline dye, and we all of us have seen these very same amalgams "take water" when the supreme test in the mouth was applied. We all made good amalgam fillings, but—(in our inmost hearts we doubted.) We saw many, many failures which we were powerless to prevent. Is it any wonder that we received this Copper Amalgam (black as it was) with open arms? It did not take us long to convince ourselves about the genuineness of the properties ascribed to it. We knew the right article when we saw it. We recognized the signs we had been looking for so long.

A mistaken idea that many dentists have, is that one amalgam ought to be made to fill the bill for every case they may have to deal with, and they go searching the world over for an alloy upon which they can always depend. Many have asked me what amalgam I considered the best; and when I asked, "the best for what?" the surprised reply would be, "why, for filling teeth, to be sure; what amalgam—in case you wished to use only one kind—is best in all cases?" One might as well ask what medicine is the best for all kinds of diseases. If all patients, and all teeth and all