

discussion which will, I am sure, bring out many points which I have not had time to touch upon, and which will be of benefit to us all.

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### Copper Amalgam.

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It was with considerable reluctance that I acceded to the polite request of your secretary, and consented to write a paper upon "Copper Amalgam." I hesitated, from the fact that the ground has been gone over so often and so thoroughly already, that to most of you the subject is become thread-worn and uninteresting. I also hesitated from a feeling that I might be suspected of taking an undue advantage of the opportunity to advance my personal interests; and the latter consideration almost forced me to ask to be allowed to decline. I have, however, decided to lay aside my objections, trusting to your good nature not to misconstrue my motives, and to bear with me if I am tiresome.

During the last two or three years you have doubtless seen in many of the dental journals numerous papers, articles and discussions upon copper amalgam, some lauding it to the skies, others condemning it in the strongest terms. There is probably not one of you who has not had some experience in its use, if even only as an experiment. Many of you have used it very extensively; some use it occasionally, and others have discarded it altogether from their practice. You have all something to say, I am sure, either for or against it, and I hope my paper may provoke a discussion which will tend to lead us nearer towards discovering the subtle principle inherent in copper amalgam, which produces all the manifestations that have puzzled us so long.

There is no doubt that for certain cases, copper amalgam is one of the best tooth preservatives we have. Its efficacy as a filling material has been proven to the satisfaction of all. When properly manipulated, it is easy and smooth and clean to work, sets with a promptness enjoyed by no other amalgam, takes a fine, if ebony, polish, and keeps its shape and place as part and parcel of the very structure in which it is imbedded. It is next to impossible to