

ways be done in the best manner, irrespective of other considerations.

Dr. Crouse would agree with Dr. Wetherbee as to the manner of opening cavities, but not on wedging; quick wedging is a heroic kind of practice, and dangerous. He denied cutting away the bicuspid in the matter charged; he would cut sufficiently to preserve a proper space between the teeth to keep them clean. Filling fine retaining points is about the most difficult part of an operation. He maintained his views in regard to soft foil, and predicted a greater use of it than ever.

Dr. Mills pursues quick wedging as a means of saving his patients from more painful operations. He agreed in removing the feather edge from enamel by using a fine file. Cleaning teeth was a subject of the greatest importance, and one to which he had devoted his best efforts; very few, he was persuaded, had any adequate idea of what was meant by the expression; it was not merely to take away the portions of tartar that might be conveniently reached, but to remove every particle of foreign substance on any part of the tooth.

Dr. McQuillen said: My experience as a teacher has convinced me that students can be taught in a few months to fill a tooth in a highly creditable and skilful manner. It is not enough, however, to know *How to do!* but *What to do!* and *When to do!* This implies a thorough knowledge of the cause of trouble; and it demands a devotion of years to acquire that thorough knowledge of the principles and practice of the profession, combined with the constant and daily application of these, which can enable a practitioner to diagnose promptly and correctly the varied and complicated cases occurring in practice, or upon which the medical man may desire an opinion in consultation. Even with the most careful training, few manifest this faculty in a high degree, apparently only those who have been endowed by nature with peculiar gifts, like the divine afflatus of the poet. What is it in the justly eminent physician, surgeon, or dentist which secures the confidence and respect alike of the community and the profession? Is it the fertility and inexhaustible resources manifested by the physician in his prescriptions, or the facility with which the surgeon amputates a limb or extirpates a tumor, or the dexterity and skill displayed by the dentist in the performance of his operations? These qualities are frequently manifested by men who make but a slight impression on the world; but when they are combined with the possession of diagnostic powers of a high order, a master-mind is recognized and respected as such. While few can