

deterioration of our profession. We have invariably noticed that the silver-plated glass cases at the doors of these who have the title of D.D.S. and L.D.S. always contain choice specimens of gold fillings inserted in the most inaccessible cavities of decay, and also magnificent full dentures on the finest of gold plate. We must go deeper than this for the cause of quacking; we must admit that the majority of quacks are incompetent men, yet a hasty desire to obtain a good practice, and at the same time get rich, which actuates the mind of many a young graduate, is responsible for the increase in the vast army of those despicable creatures of whom it is a disgrace to that noble bird a duck to call quacks. We believe that students should be taught that once a quack, always a quack. How often have we been told by one of these young men: "Oh, I am just quacking until I get a practice." We have never yet seen one who has been able to shake himself from his environments and become eventually a professional gentleman. In addition to this we believe that the reputable members of the profession should deal differently with these creatures. A man can be at times too much of a gentleman. We do not put on a full dress suit of clothes to clean out a sewer, nor should we stand on what is professional and gentlemanly etiquette in dealing with these outcasts of a noble calling. To be gentlemanly with them is the most flagrant case of casting pearls before swine. But to return to our subject, what should be the great desideratum in the choice of a filling material? We unquestionably answer, "Tooth Conservation." This comprehends everything; manipulative skill being conceded, we say, that a filling, even without beauty, that will maintain the tooth structure by being compatible with, that will save the pulp from irritation through being non-conducting and non-irritating, is a better filling to insert into a particular tooth, even though it has to be renewed in the course of every few years, than a filling which has every appearance of being beautiful, has great resisting power which, in itself, resists completely the action of the fluids of the mouth and the power exerted on it by mastication, and while it *per se* is as good in every way as the day it was inserted, it stands as the Emperor William did when he entered Paris at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, to see the ruins he had created.

This is no fictitious case, we have seen hundreds of cases of this kind. Beautiful fillings, nicely condensed, finely polished, exquisitely contured standing intact and beautiful, while the surroundings are those of demoralization, disintegration, ruin, decay, and death. Prejudice, remuneration and beauty in these cases were the governing considerations in the choice of a filling material. The operator has received the money, the patient a short period of beauty, while the poor tooth, to speak vulgarly, "has got it in the