

with the following result. The space filled was the same in both tests. The foil used was adhesive, No. 3, in half-sheet peices.

Hand pressure.—Number of thrusts, ranged from 171 to 318 to the half sheet. Time, 1 hour and 34 minutes. Weight of filling, 24 grains. Automatic mallet.—Number of blows, ranged from 130 to 275 to the half sheet. Time, 1 hour and 8 minutes. Weight of filling 28 grains. Comparisons are suggestive.

I abjured the automatic mallet, because of the trouble of changing the plugger points, and their unsteadiness in the socket. I found too, that the hand mallet was less objected to by patients, and above all, that with it I could operate more to my own satisfaction. A few more of the advantages of the hand mallet may be thus enumerated. 1st. The operator has more control of the patient, and his foil. 2nd. The labor is less exhaustive than the muscular manner used in hand pressure, and it is certainly easier for the patient. 3rd. You can build up crowns, which could not be done as perfectly, if at all, by hand pressure. 4th. There is no danger of the plugger slipping. 5th. In some places where the pressure of the hand is weakened by the difficulty of access, the taps on the head of the plugger will condense the gold more effectually. The mallet has also been the means of enabling poor dentists to lay in a stock of the best instruments, by making ivory and mother of pearl an utterly useless article for handles. The consequence too, has been, that there is more attention paid to the useful, and less to the ornamental, in the manufacture of pluggers.

The difficulties associated with the use of the hand mallet, may present themselves in different aspects to different operators; but we must remember that hand pressure is by no means devoid of embarrassment, and that excellence in operating by either method is always attained by overcoming impediments, and mastering not only the elementary principles, but the various anomalies which are brought before our view.

1st. The necessity of having an assistant is to some operators a strong objection, both on account of the extra expense of labor it may involve, and the possible or actual objection shown by certain patients to the presence, near the chair, of any other than the dentist. For awhile I tried using the mallet myself, by reversing the recent improvement of seven inch pluggers, and cutting them as short as three and a half, so that I might have the plugger and the mallet nearer to each other, and more under control of my hands. I found