

should be cut square into the teeth, so as not to leave a feather edge of tin when the filling is finished; but usually we cut the cervical margin down to a smooth strong edge, even if it goes beyond the gum or enamel margin. Now cut a *slight* groove across far enough from the margin so that it will not be broken out, make each end of this groove square or with *slight* pits, then from each pit cut a groove which will extend to the masticating surface. In nearly all approximal cavities in bicuspid and molars you will find some form of matrix of great advantage. By driving the tin firmly against the matrix you secure a well-condensed surface, and the teeth will move apart *slightly*, so that with a bevel or thin plugger you can force the tin between the matrix and the edge of the cavity, and thus be sure of having a tight filling, and plenty of material to finish well; then after removing the matrix condense with thin burnishers, and complete the finish as for gold. Where no matrix is used, or where it is used and removed before completing the filling, it is well to trim the cervical border, for in either case there is more light and room to work when only a portion of the cavity has been filled.

Be sure of all margins as you progress, and if the cavity is deep and a wide matrix shuts out the light, use a narrow one which can be moved toward the masticating surface as the work progresses. In the incisors and cuspids, where the labial or palatal wall is intact, this matrix can be bent at either end as the case requires, so as to make room for operating. We prefer to save the labial wall and line it with five layers of semi-cohesive gold folded into a mat and extended to the outer edge of the cavity; this gives the tooth a lighter shade. Bicuspid can be treated in the same way, a method originally used by Dr. Corydon Palmer. The tendency to crush or slide out during the process of filling is entirely overcome by using a matrix. We find that tin prevents further decay at the cervical margin of deep cavities oftener than any other metal or combination of metals. We fill from one-fourth to one-half of the cavity with tin, completing with gold when the tooth is of good structure, which gives all the advantages of gold for a masticating surface. Have the tin solid and square across the cavity, and the rest of the cavity of a good retaining form, the same as for a gold filling; then begin with a strip of gold slightly annealed and mallet it into the tin, but do not place too great reliance upon the connection of the two metals to keep the filling in place. We have sometimes filled incisors and cuspid approximal cavities along the labial margin with gold when the tooth was of medium structure. The fee should be reasonably large, for you can save many teeth for a longer time than with cohesive gold. Every good dentist, with a little practice, can accomplish all that the writer claims can be done, as there is no special secret connected therewith.