

much. Malleting will invariably result in chopping up the material, and over-manipulation will also make it crumble. Deeply serrated points driven with slow, but vigorous, hand pressure, will produce the best results.

Now as to the cases suitable for its use. It may be used with good effect along the cervical margin of deep approximal cavities in molars and bicuspid, when gold is to form the bulk of the filling. Its advantages here are ease of adaptation, rapidity of insertion, and its tendency to prevent shock from thermal changes. It is softer than gold alone, and may more readily be adapted to the walls and margins; it can be inserted in less than half the time that gold can, and it is a poorer conductor of heat than gold, so that cavities filled with it at this point are not so liable to respond to heat or cold after filling.

Another place where tin and gold is indicated is in the teeth of children, where we otherwise would use amalgam. In the small crown cavities of molars and bicuspid, up to the fourteenth or fifteenth year, it is the best material to use. It is preferable to amalgam, because it does not change form. It is preferable to gold, simply for the reason that in many of these cases gold is out of the question, and even if gold is inserted, it will likely have to be renewed in a few years. Tin and gold is not so much affected by moisture during manipulation as gold is, and in these small cavities can be inserted as rapidly and readily as amalgam, if its manipulation is well understood. This may seem a strong statement, but it can be demonstrated.

In case the filling wears down and requires renewing in a few years, gold can then be used and the cavity will be found in better condition than if amalgam had been employed as the first filling.

The objections to tin and gold are its tendency to turn dark, and its lack of hardness to withstand mastication on large surfaces. In small cavities the essayist has had no trouble with the filling wearing away, and in the cases mentioned has found so much satisfaction from its use that he trusts the members of your Society who have not used this material will at once make its acquaintance.

The method of preparing is to place a piece of tin foil on an equal amount of gold foil, and twisting the two into a rope. A piece large enough to fill the cavity should be used, and the whole rope worked into the cavity, much after the manner in which non-cohesive gold was used by the dentists of a generation ago.