

room and chat with patients, though the filling is not completed. When properly put on, it is impossible for the water to pass between that and the tooth. In filling the inferior teeth I regard it as an indispensable article. When operating on a bicuspid, I very often, in order to succeed with the rubber dam, place it over three teeth and operate on the middle one. It is almost utterly impossible to put the rubber over the inferior cuspid in such a way as that the water will not leak through. In such cases, I always have, cut up in readiness, pieces of spunk, and if it leaks, and they become wet, I change them as Dr. Butler changes his napkins. You will see at once, when the spunk is saturated and should be changed. With regard to the inferior incisors, it is very difficult to apply the rubber dam, yet it can be done by taking a piece of silver wire, or if you have not that, very small wrapping wire, and bringing it forward, hold it with a blunt instrument and crowd it below the crown of the tooth, then pass your rubber down as near the wire as possible, then slipping the silk over this twice after, and with a fine instrument, slip the edge of it over that wire. It is so liable to slip up, but with this wire it can be held down. So far as the upper teeth are concerned, I use it a great deal, though I don't regard it as indispensable any where except for the inferior teeth.

In filling the superior bicuspids, the wedge is my dependance. But we find that the gums seem to secrete a kind of watery mucus that is not naturally a product of the salivary glands, and when engaged in an operation of filling, you will discover its becoming moist. This spunk, if pressed into the interstices between the teeth in such cases, will always show you when it is time to change it. When there is danger of water, I never fill approximal cavities, or attempt to do it, without pressing into the interstices between the teeth pieces of spunk in this way, and if the wedge passes far enough above the base of the cavity so as to put a very thin piece of spunk in, I prefer it, for, although you dry it off the wood well, the water will work through it, and the first pellets will become a little dampened. I would rather have every point clean and dry, for when you come to filling the upper margin, you cannot polish or finish off with so nice and smooth a surface as if it had not got wet or dampened by contact with the wood. I use bibulous paper where Dr. Butler uses napkins.