

on the root may be removed, but their effect on the pericementum alveolus is serious.

For many years the use of sulphate of copper, packed into the pockets twice a week, and allowed to remain for ten minutes each time, has been in favor in England. I swear by it. It contracts spongy gums and makes scaling easier. Its action involves less loss of tissue, while its curative powers are very marked. It does not blacken the teeth like nitrate of silver, or act on them like acids; it does not spread over more surface than desired, like chloride of zinc, caustic, potash, and other such remedies. It causes little pain. Other caustics check granulation. Use bicarbonate of soda as a rinse, and pack it on top of the sulphate before rinsing. Protect the lips with an old napkin.

I have purposely avoided saying a great deal that might, and perhaps ought to be said, about peroxide of hydrogen, etc., and as I wish to leave room for somebody else to say something, I will say no more.

TABLE OF FILLINGS.

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From a study of the table on the following page it is evident that the alloys manufactured and sold by the dental manufacturing houses are not what they ought to be or what they can be made. Thus far attention has been given simply to the composition of the alloy, and that, too, with especial reference to the properties of color and easy manipulation, regardless of shrinkage and expansion, except as measured by very crude tests. The effect of annealing has not been understood at all, and for that reason it is difficult to find two samples of the same alloy from different offices that will give the same shrinkage-expansion action. This has led to much of the confusion in the matter of amalgams. It is necessary not only that the composition of the ingot be correct and always the same, but that the filings be properly and understandingly treated after cutting, and that every lot be tested before it is put on the market.

The work of Dr. Black proves beyond question that amalgams can be made that will not shrink, and that a large number of formulæ are possible, giving somewhat different working properties, but the formulæ must be confined within a narrow range; and when the filings are cut the work of manufacture is not over: they must be understandingly and properly tempered and tested before they are sold. This will never be done until it is demanded by the profession.