

solution, and any pain there may be is removed by the application of a small pellet of cocaine, or a strong solution of cocaine. Thereupon the neighboring carious parts are removed with the utmost care as far as this is possible.

For the present the cavity must not be dried out with hot air; but it is thoroughly syringed out several times with luke-warm water in order to get rid of the congealed blood. A phosphate cement which does not set too quickly is then mixed with iodol (cement and iodol-powder in equal parts) to a very soft consistency; a mixture thus prepared is very sticky, and remains plastic for a considerable time.

The cavity is then rapidly and thoroughly dried with amadou, and a portion of the cement, the size of a hemp-seed, is placed upon the exposed pulp. This iodol cement should be applied very lightly by means of a smooth stopper moistened with oil; directly the patient feels pain, the pressure must at once cease. The cement may also be pressed home by means of a dry pluglet of cotton-wool dipped in talc powder.

It is well only to close the cavity provisionally and not to insert the filling until the following day; the slight pains which are generally experienced during the setting of the cement will then gradually have passed away.

It will be observed that the cement has become sufficiently hard to protect the pulp against the pressure exercised during the insertion of the filling; the cement, however, is usually distributed too unequally in the cavity, therefore it has in part to be drilled out again—of course with great care, so as not to lay the pulp bare again.

As this mode of capping can be carried out without the employment of metal caps, it is especially suitable for all cases in which the small dimension of the cavity and also the approach to it do not permit of the application of a cap.

I have employed this method in many cases without meeting with any failures.

In places difficult of access, and also where pulpitis has appeared (even if of a slight character only), it is advisable not to attempt the capping at all, but merely to cauterize the pulp; for this purpose shreds of cobalt or arsenious paste may be used.

Kirk's arsenious paste (with a slight modification) one may prepare one's self, of an excellent quality, by extremely finely triturating in a porcelain mortar arsenious acid (two parts), which is difficult to pulverize, with one part of pumice and a little carbolic acid in such a manner that even with a 150 magnifying power no arsenic crystals can be distinguished; hereupon are triturated with the mass two parts of cocaine, and one part of menthol; other additions are superfluous. A very small quantity of this paste is laid upon a pellet of cotton-wool the size of a pin's head, and this