

the most difficult, indeed, the insertion of a good inlay is one of the most difficult operations in dentistry.

Success in the insertion of porcelain inlays depends not only upon the mechanical skill of the operator, but upon his judgment as to where they are indicated. They are especially indicated in labial cavities of incisors, cuspids and bicuspid, and large approximal cavities in incisors and cuspids, especially if the teeth are of inferior structure. Small approximal cavities are to be avoided, unless an unusual amount of access is obtained.

Some of the advantages of porcelain inlays are these :

1. They are inconspicuous.
2. Being set with cement, they add strength to frail teeth.
3. They are poor conductors of heat and cold.
4. They dispense with that inevitable nervous strain associated with long continued gold operations.

The method of procedure is this : (In the absence of practical demonstrations it may be difficult to follow this, but I will try to be as clear as possible.) After reasonable access to the cavity is obtained it is excavated in the usual manner with no undercuts, and walls almost parallel. The margins of the cavity must not be bevelled, but with great care made sharp or perpendicular, *i.e.*, at right angles to the floor of the cavity. The objection to bevelling the margins is that the edge of the filling will be too feathery and will lap all around, and if any after trimming is done, a gaping joint of cement will be exposed. Now with a matrix of thoroughly annealed platinum foil, gauge about 50, of sufficient size to more than cover the aperture, an exact impression of the cavity is taken by placing the foil flat over the entire cavity, holding it in position with the thumb and finger of the left hand, while with an ordinary steel burnisher it is pressed into the cavity with the right hand, great care being taken to avoid lapping the platinum at any point. Now remove this platinum impression with pliers, and with a fine sable brush half fill it with porcelain of proper shade, mixed with clean water, gently tapping the pliers to make the porcelain reach every corner of the matrix. The water which comes to the surface on tapping is then removed by placing the work on a cotton-napkin. Place this on a platinum tray covered with silex at the aperture of your furnace, until it is thoroughly dried, and any foreign matter, such as blood or saliva is burnt out, then place into the furnace until it is imperfectly fused or "biscuited." After it has cooled replace the matrix into the cavity and carefully burnish down the edges again ; and just here is where carelessness is most disastrous to your filling. The platinum must be perfectly burnished to the sharp edge, without any lapping, or your filling will be very imperfect. Now porcelain is again applied, making the desired contour, and the filling is baked until glossed. If, after