

Dominion Dental Journal

Vol. X.

TORONTO, JULY, 1898.

No. 7.

Original Communications.

TINFOIL MATRICES.

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Oxy-phosphate fillings are a necessity in daily practice, and as it is not always advisable to use the rubber dam in the case of irritable or very young patients, some other means of excluding moisture must be sought. During the past ten years I have been able to keep such fillings damp proof, during the progress of the chemical union that causes consolidation of the filling in the tooth cavity by the aid of pieces of tinfoil. The cavity in the tooth is prepared in a suitable manner, and the margins carefully shaped. The tooth cavity is filled with absorbent cotton carefully packed into it, after the use of the warm air syringe. A piece of tinfoil of suitable thickness is cut out, measuring one inch or one inch and one-half square, and placed in readiness. The filling is carefully mixed into a pasty mass. The cotton wall is removed, and the plastic filling gently packed into every part of the cavity. Some of the overplus of the filling left on the mixing slab is placed on the piece of tinfoil, in a suitable position. The tinfoil is quickly placed over the tooth and the cavity, and folded over the lingual and buccal surface or the palatine or buccal surface as the case may be. The tinfoil is gently brought into position with the forefinger and the thumb, or with the forefingers of the right and left hand. A stroking action of a right hand finger, while the left index finger holds the tinfoil in position within or without the dental arch, will enable the filling to be solidly pressed into place in the cavity of the teeth. The excess of material is thus squeezed over the teeth and the tinfoil can then be gently burnished over the filling so as to make a contour suitable to the case. In the case of bicuspid