

have also a place. We have been thinking of the teeth regardless of the person, who must always be considered. The temperament, endurance and caprice will be taken into account, also the ability or willingness to pay the reasonable fees to do justice to both operator and patient.

Upon efficient preparation depends an important half of the success of filling. Let us begin with gold. As a rule the approximal cavities of the anterior teeth when prepared will be oval in form, extending from the gum margin to almost as near the points of the teeth as the surfaces are in contact. Even when the original area of decay is small and circular it is well to cut away above and below to avoid ready recurrence. About the only exceptions to this rule are: (1) where the teeth are very strong and dense, and (2) where there is a free space between them. Toward the cervical margin especial care is necessary in cutting away so far as there is any superficial defect in the enamel, and when the groove for undercut is obtained, equal care is required to have fairly strong, well-supported margins, leaving no scale-like edges to be fractured on inserting the gold. Turning our attention to the palatal walls or margins which are often quite in contact, also thin and frail, a greater proportion of successes will be had if these are cut away till strong edges are obtained. The complete margin is best to be levelled outward, the emery or cuttle-fish disks or strips being used after the burrs or chisel. For undercut, the groove of the cervical margin should not be circular or even oval, but is better to be in a straight line so as to prevent rocking. Pits may or may not be used, but perhaps better results are obtained in their use. The retention toward the incisal edge is often the difficult and critical part, especially in thin, slender-edged incisors. Where the corner of the tooth is gone the case is more difficult. Deeper grooves are needed in the seat of the cavity. Some help may be obtained by a groove, not undercut, to form a rest on the palatal or labial wall, then getting the best possible undercut at the point. If the nerve has been removed, retention may be gotten by cementing a pin or post into the canal. Even if the nerve is still alive, a pin may be used by being threaded, then screwed into the seat, a way having first been drilled with a burr of proper size. With labial cavities, extending well under the gum margin, it is the writer's experience that the moisture can be better excluded and at the same time more thorough preparation obtained by doing without a clamp. Sometimes the gum and dam may be kept retracted by holding the long ends of the ligatures. At other times, especially if the festoons be deep and narrow, an excavator held with care and sureness will do the work. Such cavities are drilled well out to either side. When finished the lower and lateral margins should be slightly levelled outward and smooth. Cuttle-fish disks or small Scotch stone points