

different preparations having gutta percha as a base, among those being too soft, consequently unfit for permanent fillings, although well adapted for temporary fillings in many cases. The different preparations of zinc answer well for temporary fillings, but wear, and the fluids of the mouth in most cases render them unfit for durable operations. Consequently, we are compelled to resort to that much abused material called amalgam, being the only one capable of withstanding all the combined forces. But its color is decidedly objectionable, especially for front teeth.

But I will hazard the statement that, when well prepared and thoroughly packed into a properly shaped cavity and decently finished, it is infinitely superior to a poor gold filling. And the amalgam I mean is no miserable contraband material composed of quicksilver and filings of coin silver, which any dentist, in these enlightened days, should be ashamed to use, but a composition of silver, tin and quicksilver, which is improved by the addition of platinum.

There has been a great deal said about salivation, or ptyalism, having been produced by amalgam fillings, the truth of which I very much doubt; nevertheless, if it has happened occasionally, the material must have been very indifferently prepared. And if, in its preparation, you follow my directions carefully, I shall hold myself responsible for all injury done in the way of salivation.

In the first place, the cavity must be as well prepared as for a gold filling, by carefully removing all softened tooth substance, trimming down thin edges, and securing good undercuts or retaining points. After which, the cavity should be filled with a pledget of cotton, saturated with creosote or carbolic acid, until the amalgam is prepared.

Perhaps you do not understand why the creosote is applied.

It is for this reason, that by removing all the moisture possible, there will still remain enough to more or less oxy lize the filling as well as have a tendency to soften the dentine; but placing the creosote in the previously dried cavity saturates the abrupt ends of the dentinal tubules, or so far dilutes the remaining moisture that it is rendered inert; and I presume you are all well aware that it is impossible for a body saturated with creosote or carbolic acid to decay.

The cavity being ready, the amalgam should be prepared by placing a globule of quicksilver in a mortar, or in the hand, (and I prefer the hand, first, because it is more convenient, and secondly, because I believe its warmth assists in the cleansing process,) adding sufficient filings to make a mass that will fill the cavity. After thoroughly incorporating the filings and quicksilver, wash in alcohol repeatedly, until there is no more discoloration; after which, place in a chamois skin and wring with