

dentist whom some would call a "crank on gold fillings." I find nearly all of them as bright and perfect as the day the work was done.

It is not my intention to enter into a description of the variations incident to filling a great variety of cavities in different parts of the mouth, but will be contented by presenting a cavity in the distal surface of a right superior central incisor. The teeth being close together, as perfect fillings cannot be made where the space is very slight, the first thing, therefore, that must occupy our attention is to get plenty of space. Several methods to accomplish this are advanced, but my experience has been that absorbent cotton is the most satisfactory to both patient and dentist. The cotton should be made into a rope, and packed tightly between the teeth, and left there, at least, twenty-four hours. Where the teeth are very firm, two applications may be necessary.

Having obtained the necessary space, we are ready for the operation. Apply the rubber dam, exposing four teeth—the two centrals and the right lateral and cuspid. With a sharp, strong chisel, and a spear-shaped burr, the enamel is cut away, well on the labial side, to have a good view of the work, and to expose the filling sufficiently to show what it is. If a gold filling is not sufficiently exposed, and left in a shadow, it will look no better than an amalgam filling, as the surface will appear black. Trim the lingual side down to a smooth, strong edge. The points of the cavity, cervical and cutting, are shaped with a burr or other suitable instrument. The cavity is grooved all around with a sharp burr. Distinct labio and palatal gingival extensions are necessary. They will serve for both retaining pits and starting points. The edges of the cavity are now polished with fine sandpaper strips No. 00, or corundum point, the dust blown out and the cavity is ready for filling. For commencement and lining the walls of the cavity, Watts' crystal gold is used, on account of its more perfect adaptability in small places, lying still where placed, and cohesive qualities. A pellet of this gold, small enough to enter into the cavity easily, is taken, passed through the flame of a spirit lamp, and with a small, slightly serrated plugger, packed into the commencement point and firmly lodged with hand pressure. In regular order from the starting point, each piece of gold is added with small pointed instruments, until the pits and undercuts are filled and the cavity lined.