

brittle, the brittleness increasing as you recede from the intact dentine. From this view of the case we consider it desirable to cut away on all sides of the cavity all over-hanging enamel, after having separated with wedge or other appliance when necessary. Secure the future stability of the filling by cutting retaining groves in the dentine, and for this purpose, even when the cavity is small, cut down from the grinding surface of the tooth. Introduce the filling from the grinding surface and in such a manner that when finished smoothly with a convex surface it shall present as nearly as possible the original *size* and form of the tooth. When the teeth come together the point of contact is where nature placed it, extending from nearly the grinding surface from one half to one third the length of the crown of the tooth. The substances in contact are the indestructable filling. The margins of the cavity are of strong, vital, enamel and are in the most favorable conditions for cleanliness. By thus treating this class of cavities we think we can arrest the decay, and at the same time remove its predisposing cause with the best prospect of permanent success.

We do not ask any one to accept our theory or adopt our practice. We shall be quite satisfied if the suggestions thrown out induce such reflection and discussion as shall add something to our knowledge of Dental Science.

CONSERVATIVE DENTISTRY.

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It is customary for the majority of dentists to extract the roots of teeth, either because they are the cause of pain, or for the insertion of artificial teeth; for it is thought by many operators that artificial teeth cannot properly be inserted over roots, and that suppurating roots cannot be cured; at least, that neither can be successfully performed. I will try to point out the usefulness of roots when properly treated; for, as a rule, most of them can be saved for many years, with great advantage to the patient, and credit to the dentist. In the extraction of roots more of the alveolar process is cut away in one moment than would take one year for natural absorption to remove; the deep socket left after the extraction of