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## Original Communications.

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### Little Aids in Practice.

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*(From St. Thomas, Ont.)*

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#### AT THE CHAIR.

Perhaps one of the safest methods of annealing sheet gold is upon a piece of mica, when the flame cannot possibly touch the gold. This method works admirably with most makes, but I find that some varieties of soft gold seem to require additional heat, and this too, by direct contact with the flame, after it has been made up ready for use.

To carry very soft mixed cement to the bottom of a cavity, remove it from the spatula on to a wee bit of paper laying at the edge of the glass slide; then, with tweezers, carry this edge-wise up between the two teeth, if an approximal cavity, and press home with an excavator.

Miniature napkins cut or torn from pure white old cotton are preferable to those from new material, and should always be thrown away when once used. I trust none of us have the heart of a certain western operator, who compelled his better-half to wash and iron an innumerable number of these requisites. One of these folded up and laid between the lip and gum, or under the tongue, wonderfully extends our time in brief operations, and makes it quite possible to perform dry work. When removing debris from a cavity, one of these little squares held in the left hand, ready to take the refuse from about the excavator is but another item of carefulness and consideration on the part of the dentist that elevates him in the estimation of the patient; in fact, the need for these grows so rapidly that we soon find ourselves well supplied with