

Moreover, it has this one great advantage over gold. Being a little more rigid and springy, it can be more easily removed from a cavity into which it has been burnished without changing its shape. You also have the advantage of using either kind of body, where with gold you are compelled to use the low fusing.

The margins of all cavities into which inlays are to be inserted should be as sharp and stout as it is possible to make them. In large approximal cavities of incisors the lingual wall should be well cut away, and sufficient space should be obtained to ensure the easy withdrawal of the matrix. For working the foil into the cavity, I have found nothing to equal the ordinary ball burnisher; first place a piece of foil over the entire cavity and then, with a careful rotary motion, gradually working the foil to the bottom, at the same time keeping the over-lapping edges carefully burnished down to the surfaces of the tooth. If the bottom of the matrix becomes perforated it is of no account, as the porcelain will bridge over the opening when tapped into place.

After a good impression is obtained, fill the matrix with porcelain in the usual way, absorb the moisture, and after letting it thoroughly dry out in front of your lighted furnace, proceed to bake it. After the first baking, replace into the cavity and burnish the shrunken foil close to the margins by carefully inserting the blade of a thin burnisher between the platinum and the porcelain.

Now add body where desired, and bake again. If, after a second baking, there are any indications of shrinkage, place the matrix back into the cavity and burnish again. I seldom bake an inlay less than three times.

After the final baking tear away the foil from the porcelain and, as some one has expressed it, make a collar button of your filling by cutting a groove around the cavity portion of it with a fine rubber and corundum disc. Now cement into position, keeping the cavity dry with the rubber dam wherever possible.

In small approximal cavities, a lighter shade than the tooth will give better final results. In corners, always try and have the occlusal corner next the tooth a right angle rather than an acute angle, as the porcelain will have more body and strength. Do not attempt a porcelain corner on a tooth that has a thin occlusal surface, or where the bite is close or otherwise unfavorable. The utmost cleanliness is necessary in porcelain work, as any dirt that might happen to get into your brush or body is apt to cause porosity.

Great attention must also be paid to firing. The body should be well dried before inserting into the furnace, and practice alone