

and contracting less than gold, and giving a surface which will wear from five to ten years, depending upon the size and location of the cavity. Buccal cavities in the first molars, and palatal cavities in the incisors, filled for children eight years old, are still in good condition after a period of fifteen years, and we have seen fillings twenty-five years of age. Strips of No. 10, from one to three thicknesses, can be welded together, cohering as well as semi-cohesive gold, or better, and can be manipulated much more rapidly; therefore, if desirable, you can produce any contour.

Some operators have advocated using gold and tin folded together in alternate layers, thus exposing both metals to the fluids of the mouth, claiming that fillings can be made quicker and are not as subject to thermal changes, and can be inserted nearer the pulp than when gold is used. These claims are entirely met by using tin alone. Others say that this union of gold and tin will preserve the teeth quite as well as a correct gold filling, but we do not see that it offers any advantage over either tin or gold, except that it wears somewhat longer than tin.

Instruments with square ends and sides, and medium serrations, are best adapted for hand force, and the majority of mediumly serrated hand-mallet instruments will work well on No. 10 tin of one, two, or three layers, using a four-ounce mallet with a fair, steady blow; but the force of blow will be guided by practice, thickness of tin, size of instrument, and depth of serrations. You must have absolute dryness and use care, not thinking because it is *tin* that it will be all right anyway. Fold the tin into strips of different widths, thicknesses, and lengths, according to size and location of cavity; but for a large crown or approximal cavity, the strips may be folded into mats or rolled into cylinders; but as more force is required to condense them, we generally prefer strips for frail teeth. To make the most *pliable* cylinders, cut a strip of any desired width from a sheet of foil and roll it on a broach, cutting it off to make cylinders of different thicknesses. When the cavity is full, go over the tin thoroughly with mallet or hand force, cutting down crown fillings with burs or corundum-wheels, and approximal fillings with sharp instruments, emery strips or discs. After partially finishing, give the filling another condensing with the burnisher, then a final trimming and moderate burnishing. By trimming fillings before they get wet, you can remedy any defects with a sharply-serrated plugger and thin strip of tin as easily as with gold.

Generally cavities are prepared the same as for gold, except that the grooves or pits should be a trifle larger. Many cavities can be filled with less excavating than required for gold, and some approximal cavities in bicuspid and molars can be well filled without removing the masticating surface. Here especially the cavities