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EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

KEEPING THE MOUTH DRY WHILE FILLING.

BY C. S. CHITTENDEN.

MR. EDITOR,—Will you be so kind as to tell me, through the columns of the Journal, what means to adopt to keep the mouth dry, while filling teeth in the lower jaw. In many cases, I find it impossible to keep back the saliva, while filling large cavities in the lower molar and bicuspid; and as most of the Dentists of my acquaintance, are similarly troubled, I, with them, shall feel greatly obliged, if, in the next No. of the Journal, you will give us a few hints on the subject.

B. B.

The above is a sample of the numerous inquiries which have been made to me within the last few weeks, on this subject, and I propose to answer *all* enquirers, by giving the methods which I have adopted, and which have proved very successful in my hands. The "rubber dam," I consider to be the very best possible preventive to "flooding," when ever it can be employed. It should be from four to six inches square, and should be put over two or three teeth, and pressed down a little under the margin of the gum: then a strong piece of wetting cord, or stout thread should be passed around the tooth or teeth, and tied firmly, so as to prevent the rubber from rising. This is perfectly effectual, when it can be used, as I said before, but, unfortunately, I have met with many cases, where the mouth was so small, the buccinator