

and may be removed with little trouble. The drying also shrinks the pulp, and this facilitates its removal.

Speaking of sealing the cavity, brings to mind the fact that many operators are notoriously careless in this respect. In using arsenic for destruction of the pulp, or in the treatment of pulp canals prior to filling, it is a matter of much moment that the cavity should be perfectly sealed.

Where arsenic is used it is evident to every operator, that if any be allowed to escape from the cavity serious trouble will ensue; and the other fact is no less true—though not so universally recognized—that where a pulp canal is being treated, and not properly sealed against the ingress of deleterious agents between treatments, the action of our medicaments is greatly repressed if not at times entirely overcome.

The common method of sealing the cavity is by the use of sandarac varnish on cotton. To the mind of the writer there are two objections to this. First, it is doubtful if by this means the cavity is always well sealed, and second, it is a most unpleasant material to use in the mouth. When a large cavity has been sealed with sandarac and cotton for a few days, the odor on removing is exceedingly offensive. These facts have led to the almost entire abandonment by the writer, and he now uses the preparation known as Gilbert's Temporary Stopping. It is a preparation of gutta percha, with probably a large proportion of lime incorporated in it, and is the most effective and convenient sealing material on the market. It requires but little heat to soften it to the consistency of putty, and may be inserted as readily and quickly as cotton and sandarac. It is not so dense or tough as to give any trouble on removal at a subsequent sitting, and altogether is the most satisfactory material ever presented for this purpose.

*Tin and gold in combination as a filling material.* Much has been said and written on this subject, but it is the opinion of the essayist that the material is not used in the profession to the extent that its merits should demand. Under certain conditions it is the most desirable filling material that can be used, and the reason it is not employed more is probably due to the fact that its manipulation is not well understood by the average operator. Tin and gold should never be malleted. It should be inserted entirely by hand pressure, and even then it must not be manipulated too