

DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL.

VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1895.

[No. 2.

Original Communications.

Oxyphosphate of Zinc as a Filling Material.—Its Abuse.*

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Zinc oxyphosphate, commonly called cement, bone-filling, white filling or composition, has become an essential in operative dentistry. Among its more important uses may be mentioned, (1) that of a temporary stopping in young anterior teeth; (2) in deep-seated cavities where pulps are almost exposed (in time often permitting deposits of secondary dentine); (3) in the treatment of nerve-canals to retain the temporary dressing and fill the cavity until considered ready for the permanent filling; (4) as a trial filling over a capping in exposed pulps, and (5) in cases of recent pulpitis; (6) as an intermediate in deep cavities under gold or amalgam, both preventing thermal shocks and strengthening frail walls; (7) for inserting crowns and bridges.

Judiciously selected and properly manipulated, in the cases above mentioned, and other conditions and capacities, oxyphosphate has proved to be a great blessing to patients and satisfaction to dentists; but unfortunately, like many other beneficent materials, it has been very sadly misused and abused.

The most common abuse is in being employed as an ordinary filling material in ordinary cases. Its solubility in the fluids of the mouth, the especial tendency to this, in many cases, at the cervical margin and on palatine surfaces, and the consequent uncertainty of its efficient durability, will not allow it a place as a

* Read before the Dental Association of Nova Scotia.