

I hold the oxychloride cements, and the oxyphosphates, as the acme of filling material, if it were possible to prevent their erosion, and in so many cases chemical dissolution; but herein comes the eclectic point—combine! Why should a deep cavity be entirely filled with gold, or even amalgam? It has been, or is, my prevailing practice to fill in 95 cases with cements, and cap the cavities with gold, amalgams, or both combined.

No operator can make as close a connection with the walls of a cavity with any non-adherent material, as he can with the plastic advantages of cements. A child could learn it!

Let the operator use his skill in preparing that cavity, with as little loss of material as possible, and he will find the filling of it in this way, child's play. Let the cement be capped to defend it, and you have a constituent underneath which holds the parts together, and here let me add, that cements should not be used too doughy, but soft and sticky, so that they will stick to the walls of the cavity and adhere there. Let the same care be used as in the use of all gold above, and the result is better. Take a so-called shell, merely the enamel coating so to say, standing as a ruin, carefully scrape the soft layers of dentine away from the interior, and plaster it up and around the walls with quite soft cement; let it dry and harden, then repeat, and leave enough room in the centre for anchorage, and carefully take away the cement from the margins and root-edges, and cap nicely over with *soft* amalgam. I say *soft* expressly. Soft amalgam does not, in my experience, contract as much as *dry* or hard-pressed. The shell will not discolor, and the work will do good duty for even longer than the most sanguine could expect.

The combination of gold and amalgam is, according to my experience, one of the best filling materials we can resort to. The combine appears to benefit each other in a preservative sense. Dentine, under this combined material, does not give way, as in the use of each separately; if this depends on a galvanic or electro-development, I leave to science to determine. I can only vouch for resulting facts, and those benefits. My principle is to fill with gold wherever that part of the tooth is visible, to evade darkness of color, and fill in the rest with amalgams, of qualities according to case. For example, a proximate-cavity in a central incisor—The labial surface from underneath with gold and the lingual with amalgam; when polished later, you have the appearance of a gold-filling from the superior side, and the inferior dark but invisible.