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EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

TIN FOIL.

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In dentistry, as in almost every thing else, the rage for something new has carried all before it. Conservatism seems to be entirely lost sight of. Operations on the teeth which were and are known to be of the highest character, so far as usefulness is concerned, are now, in almost every instance, discarded for something newer and more costly. I would not for a moment wish to urge a word against the most costly operations where they are required, but there is a class of teeth, for a class of patients, which can be preserved as long and as well by the use of tin foil, as by the use of gold. For instance, if a patient were presented with a large, a very large cavity, a cavity that it would take from ten to fifteen dollars to fill, on the grinding surface of a molar, and the antagonizing molar absent, the patient a person earning his or her bread by daily labor, I would most certainly advise that the tooth should be filled with tin foil, instead of putting him or her to the expense of gold. I like gold fillings, the very best gold fillings, as well as any dentist can, under what I consider proper circumstances, but when I meet with such teeth as I have indicated, which have been saved perfectly for twenty or thirty years, as I do very frequently, I am more and more firmly fixed in the opinion that a little more conservatism is required in these latter days. It has been said that if fillings in the same mouth are made