

most thorough and conscientious graduate soon learns in practice, that having to renew his fillings at unreasonably short intervals, does not have such dispelling effects on his clientele as the reputation of being "rough and harsh," as it is generally termed.

There are, however, defects in cavity preparation which none of us are justified in overlooking, viz., the proper trimming and beveling of ragged enamel borders in all cavities, and the thorough excavation of underlying carious matter, where it is not desirable to cut away projecting enamel on grinding surfaces and in buccal cavities.

My estimation of amalgam as a filling material may be stated by saying, if a good article be used in the same locations, under similar conditions and with equal exactness required in the use of gold, we find it no mean competitor with the fellow-metal in arresting the progress of dental caries.

WHY DO AMALGAM FILLINGS SO FREQUENTLY FAIL?*

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This question would indicate a belief on the part of the person who proposed it, that amalgam fillings fail very much more frequently than fillings made of other materials. Amalgam fillings fail more frequently than any other, primarily for the same reason that more people die in China in a given time than in Canada. I think you will bear me out in saying that more amalgam fillings are inserted than of all other materials combined. While not wishing to enter into or draw this convention into a discussion of the relative values of amalgam and other available materials, I will take the opportunity of repeating the statement I have seen in print somewhere: "Amalgam fillings will save many teeth for a longer period of usefulness than will any other material." Whether or not this is recognized as a principle by the profession, we find amalgam used in teeth of the frailest nature, where the "life expectancy" is extremely low, and in cavities almost inaccessible, where thorough preparation is almost out of the question. Failure in these cases is too often unjustly laid on the material. Amalgam may be said to be in the position of certain frail mortals who are often described as "more sinned against than sinning."

The case with which amalgam may be plastered into a cavity no matter how indifferently prepared, has tempted many of us to less careful work, than we know in our inmost souls to be

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