

FILLING TEETH.

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I would like to call the attention of the readers of the *Journal* to the article in the last number, copied from *The Missouri Dental Journal*, on Cylinder Filling.

The writer gives a good description of one of the best methods of filling teeth previous to the commencement of the use of adhesive foil, and says, very correctly: that "This method of using gold foil is altogether too much ignored at the present day."

When we take into consideration, the fact that there are thousands upon thousands of first rate fillings now in use, made of soft foil, either in the form of cylinders or pellets, which have preserved the teeth in which they were inserted, for thirty or forty years, and then take a glance at the vast number of exceedingly poor fillings, made from adhesive gold, which every Dentist meets from day to day, we cannot help thinking that adhesive gold has turned the heads of many of our young operators, and old ones too, for that matter. I would not for a moment urge objections to adhesive gold, for, by its use many teeth can be saved which could not be preserved by soft foil; but I do maintain, that when really as good fillings can be put in with soft foil, in one-tenth of the time required for adhesive gold, it is far wiser to use the soft foil.

The writer in *The Missouri Dental Journal* closes his remarks as follows, viz.: "There is no method in use in which a greater weight of gold can be compressed into a cavity than by the use of cylinders." Now if, as we all know, that filling is nearest perfection which is most solidly condensed, and no greater weight of gold can be introduced in any other way, there can be but one objection to this method of filling teeth, and that is, that a filling made of soft foil cannot be made to receive as fine a "finish" as one of adhesive gold. That need be no objection whatever, for, if the cylinders or pellets are heated just sufficiently to dry them thoroughly, before introducing them into the cavity, and each cylinder or pellet solidly condensed as the operation progresses, there will be no trouble in making a fine facing for the filling, by welding adhesive gold on to it, in the same manner as if the whole filling were made of adhesive foil.