

much more difficult of filling, and insecure when filled, than if the points left projecting into the main fissure had been cut away. He also objected to the use of such heavy foil as No. 14, 15, or 20; he would prefer No. 2, 3, or 4. He thought it not best to attempt to confine any one to one kind of foil any more than to one kind of instrument. He believed in not having foil too adhesive, and in using soft foil over the edges of enamel, with hand-pressure or with the mallet. In retaining points he would use a piece of gold partially annealed.

Dr. Wetherbee said wedges were safe in skilful hands; they might be severe, but not half so severe as the use of rubber; the soreness caused by the rubber was ten times a greater objection to its use than that of the wedge. All the separation necessary, even in the smallest cavities between the front teeth, is such as to allow the passage of the thinnest file; with properly formed instruments he obtained any more room which he needed from the palatal surface. Comparing his practice of twenty years ago with that of to-day, he was sure there was less suffering from the quick wedge than from the rubber.

Dr. Thomas was opposed to quick wedging from personal experience; he had been made to suffer more in that way than he would ever inflict upon one of his patients. Next to the wedge of hard wood driven quickly, came rubber; he was opposed to that also; it is fearfully expansive. He needs more room for operating than would merely allow the passage of a thin file, and to secure this with the least possible pain, he uses cotton, which in a little time secures space. He narrated an instance of heroic wedging, which occurred in a certain dental society, which resulted in splitting off the lateral incisor.

Dr. Woolworth rose to say that he agreed fully with the views of the last speaker.

Mr. McDonnell announced himself as a champion of quick-wedging; he had never split the alveolus nor done any other damage; but admitting such things to have happened, they were no more an argument against wedging than similar occurrences in extracting; all his experience was opposed to slow wedging. He considered contour fillings indispensable, and covered all exposed dentine and parts of enamel that had been cut with gold. He did not like the file for cutting out fissures; never used it except for cutting away enamel that should not be left.