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EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

THE HAND Mallet IN FILLING TEETH.

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*Read before the Dental Association of the Province of Quebec.*

I once had the pleasure of sitting, Gamaliel like, at the feet of Dr. Atkinson of New York, in his office, watching him filling with the aid of the hand mallet, which he introduced to the profession in 1861. Although I had previously seen it used by good operators in the United States, and had used it myself to some extent, I never had entire confidence in it until I witnessed Dr. Atkinson's operations.

There is something inoculative in the enthusiasm of a man of genius who rides a hobby, especially if that hobby is acknowledged by competitors to be a great step towards perfection in any sphere of labor. More especially is this true if the enthusiast also happens to be the inventor. The result has been that after receiving this stimulus I persevered in the use of the hand mallet, and now adhere to it almost exclusively. I am fully convinced that its judicious use is capable of producing superior fillings to those done by hand pressure, and I will endeavour briefly to lay before you some of its merits, as well as every demerit I know it to possess; my object being, not to accumulate arguments to sustain my *penchant* for it, but to elicit truth, and the best means to success. I would premise, however, by saying, that while strongly advocating the use of the hand mallet, I can fully appreciate the real excellence of operations achieved with