

Now a few words about the *hot air* in operating. Every dentist recognizes, or should recognize, the advantage of hot air in drying pulp canals previous to filling. If we get perfect dryness in a pulp canal we destroy the possibility of decomposition, and thus limit the tendency to the formation of gases or other irritants likely to cause trouble in the future. This is so well established that it is a matter of much wonder to find many dentists still filling pulp canals without due precaution in this particular.

Another instance where the writer has found it advantageous to use hot air is in opening into pulpless teeth not having a fistulous outlet. You all realize the danger of setting up inflammation in a tooth of this kind, and you are all equally aware of the tendency to trouble and sometimes to abscess subsequent to the first treatment. This is specially annoying from the fact that usually the tooth has given no pain prior to the operation, and the patient naturally lays the blame to the operator. The writer has lately almost come to the conclusion that the patient is right. In the last two or three years, in a practice where he is constantly treating teeth of this nature, he cannot remember one case where trouble has followed the opening of a pulpless tooth. The method of treatment is as follows: Flood the cavity and chamber well with an antiseptic; absorb this, carrying with it as much debris as possible. Repeat the process several times, and in short, work out all the debris as perfectly as may be without forcing anything through the apical foramen. Always keep the antiseptic in advance of the broach. After using the medicament in this way till the canals are cleaned, flow alcohol into the cavity and canals and absorb with cotton. Then use hot air on the canals for some time, after which flood again with an antiseptic, and seal the cavity, leaving a little cotton in the chamber but none in the canals. If this is done with care, the results will usually be a satisfaction to the operator and a comfort to the patient. In fact, the writer cannot remember a single case of pericementitis following a treatment of this kind since he used the hot air.

Again, where arsenic has been applied to a pulp and allowed to remain a few days, it is often found that the pulp will respond quite actively to pressure, so that it cannot readily be removed. Usually a pulp in this condition will not respond to heat, and after using hot air on it for some time it will lose its sensitiveness to pressure,