

"ANY PIECE OF FILE WILL DO."—We often see in papers and discussions a remark like the foregoing in regard to the selection of a matrix in filling teeth. The advice is all wrong and unscientific. The matrix should reproduce the original form of the tooth, when possible, and the flat surface of the file, and of some matrices, leaves the approximating surfaces in a condition which is a source of discomfort, and invites new decay by retaining food and other matter until fermentation ensues. Whenever the jack set of matrices are applicable, they are very superior to any other, on account of their perfectly contouring the matrix surface.—*Western Dental Journal*.

WRITING of crown and bridge work in the *Dental Review*, Dr. T. E. Weeks says that while not wishing to be understood as disparaging the necessity of careful preparation of teeth and roots which are to carry crowns, he wishes to emphasize the fact that there are other points of equal importance. His observation has convinced him that only a small part of the irritation and inflammation of the soft tissues about the teeth bearing crowns is caused by bands which don't touch the teeth at every point of their circumference at the gingival margin. Such irritation may come from (1) the edges of the band being rough or improperly bevelled, (2) the band being forced so far beneath the free margin of the gums as to encroach upon the tissues at some point, (3) improper occlusion, or (4) improper contour and contact of the proximate surfaces.

THE USE OF COMPRESSED AIR IN OPERATIVE DENTISTRY.—The February *Cosmos* gives an interesting abstract of a paper given by Dr. S. Freeman before the American Dental Association, on the uses of compressed air in operative dentistry. Dr. Freeman prefers the Champion beer pump for compressing the air, or, in cases where the water pressure is not more than twenty-five pounds, the compound pump by the same manufacturers is better, as it is often desirable to have a pressure of forty to fifty pounds to the square inch. The reservoir is a tank tested to one hundred and fifty pounds' pressure to the square inch. Dr. Freeman uses the compressed air in spraying the mouth to produce an antiseptic condition, using the following: Borine, 1 part; Pyrozone (3 per cent.), 2 parts; water, 1 part. He uses it in stomatitis of various kinds, and in applying medicine to the gums it promotes absorption, thus facilitating the use of counter irritants, sedatives, and local anæsthetics. He also finds it very useful in diseases of the antrum, and in pyorrhœa alveolaris. It is used in desiccating the dentine and forcing medicaments into the tubuli to obtund sensibility, and in bleaching teeth it is also useful as a time-saver.