

zinc. After pressing in the paste persistently with a suitable broach, it is well to take a small pledget of cotton or piece of gutta percha and press the paste more compactly into the canals. This will insure that no vacancies are left for the infiltration of fluids, which would prove as troublesome as so much dead nerve remaining.

In substance, I may say that the successful treatment of roots depends largely, first, upon the thoroughness with which the decomposed tissue is removed or destroyed, and, secondly, upon the thoroughness with which the roots are filled, and the space previously occupied by the pulp tissue supplanted by a non-decomposable substance.

Amalgam Fillings.

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The subject of my paper is an old one, yet ever new, inasmuch as we continue to ask the question, "Why do amalgam fillings fail?" It is not my purpose to give the history of amalgam, although that might be interesting, but to enter at once on that phase of the subject which is of more immediate interest to us, viz., its practical treatment.

I do not expect to offer anything which has not been said before, but I do not think our time will have been spent in vain, if a consideration of the subject shall awaken sufficient interest to induce some one to exercise more care, and thus make better fillings. I do not impute carelessness to those present. I believe the men who take an interest in conventions, are not likely to be the sort of men who care only for the dollars they can get out of their practice; yet some point may have escaped notice in the past, which, by receiving attention, may lead to better results. We cannot expect any man to excel in every point, and it is noticeable that many of our best operators in gold make very poor amalgam fillings. The reasons for success or failure are in the attendant conditions, and if we could thoroughly understand and control these, we would be able to make amalgam fillings that would endure.