

Original Communications.

Combination Fillings and Eclectic Practice.

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The following was read before the A.D.S. of Europe, in Baden-Baden, in 1878, and I am happy to say that the views expressed then, have worked their way slowly to the front, and to-day are known under the popular title of "Combination Fillings." We have arrived at this result through an enforced eclecticism in our treatment of teeth, by grasping at, and making use of every material offered to us, in our vain efforts to prevent decay, and preserve the organs confided to the care of our experience. Ten years is a fair time in which to decide the important query: Have we gained greater knowledge in this time to enable us to save more teeth than in 1879? Are more teeth saved, comparatively, to-day than formerly? Let each individual practitioner ask himself these questions, and answer them for his own satisfaction.

Every man knows where he has failed, so let him try again, and try something else than that in which he has failed, and find out new results as beneficial or otherwise, until he develops a natural eclectic knowledge of the manner and material he will use, according to the case. This can only take place with surety when the patient is a regular visitor, and one has time to note the permanency of the filling material used.

My experience of the last ten years, with, as a general rule, a bad class of teeth, is that the Combination-filling is the most permanent, and they have been as follows: Gold and amalgams (gold and cement), amalgam and cements, tin and amalgam. You will wonder at my not including tin and gold. The simple reason is, that after experimenting quite a time, I finally came to the conclusion, through results, that gold and amalgam had the same effects with a more perfect possibility of manipulation.

*I merely wanted to demonstrate by reading this paper (written ten years ago), that the present system of combination fillings, which is being so much advocated now in American Dental Journals, is nothing new, but has been there before and the system followed for years here in Europe.