

to control on account of their universal sensitiveness, preventing the proper preparation of the cavity to retain a filling and the gradual separation of the teeth, caused by the natural expansion of the jaw, so as to lead to the complaint on the part of the patient of food wedging between the filling and the approximating tooth and lodging in the interproximal space.

In extreme cases, to prevent the wedging of food in the interproximal space where both teeth are decayed, it may be advisable to bridge across the interproximal space and join the fillings together. This will often prove a relief to the patient where separate fillings have been a failure. Amalgam or gutta-percha are probably the most serviceable materials for these cavities.

A great aid in securing firmness of these fillings, if amalgam be used, is to place a metal bar across the interproximal space with one end resting on the cervical wall of one cavity and the other on the cervical wall of the other, building the filling around and over it. This locks the teeth together more securely and affords perfect protection to the gum.

An exposed pulp may be treated by flowing over it a paste made of oil of cassia with zinc oxide and fill cavity with cement. This paste is an anodyne, and a pulp will usually remain comfortably under it. Should the pulp be very much exposed or begin to suppurate it is best to devitalize, remove pulp and fill.

In the treatment of abscessed temporary teeth the canals should be as carefully cleansed as possible by mechanical means and then packed with cotton saturated with oil of cassia. When there is a fistulous opening, the cassia should be forced through the opening on the gum. When this has been done, if the canals have been thoroughly cleansed and the contents were not too offensive, the tooth may be filled at the same sitting. If the dentine seem saturated with foul matter, the canals should be filled with cotton and cassia and sealed with temporary stopping for a week. If the fistula still remain it should be again injected and the tooth filled in the following manner: The pulp-chamber and canals should be flooded with a solution of gutta-percha in eucalyptol and some warmed temporary stopping forced down into each canal till the solution shows at the opening of the fistula. The temporary stopping should be left in the canals as a root filling and the cavity may then be filled with whatever filling is indicated.

The care of the permanent teeth in childhood is one of the most important problems in the practice of dentistry. The teeth that suffer most from the ravages of decay are the first permanent molars, and they should be the object of special attention on the part of the dentist. Besides the fact that they are called upon to do longer service in the mouth than any of the other teeth, they are also the standard-bearers of the jaws during that period that inter-