

## Polishing Disks.

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Every dentist recognizes, as a very necessary and important part of his work, the operation of finishing and polishing fillings, both of gold and amalgam; and, in order to quickly and effectually accomplish this work, innumerable devices, most of which are to be used with the dental engine, have been offered by manufacturers.

Perhaps the most popular of these, at the present time, are the little paper disks, cut in different sizes, and carrying polishing powder of different kinds and grades, ranging from the coarse corundum, used in lieu of a file, to the finest flour of emery, pumice stone, and rouge, which impart a brilliant polish to the filling. Their flexibility, which allows them to easily follow the contour of the filling, has no doubt been the means of rendering them a success, while their cheapness gives every one an opportunity to keep on hand an unlimited supply. Although these little flat disks are so very handy in most cases, we are often unable to use them at some particular point where their services would be most acceptable, but where their shape will not permit them to go. We reluctantly lay them aside, and proceed to finish our filling with other instruments—quite as effectual<sup>1</sup> may be as to the result, but requiring far more time, patience and care in their use.

Now, why cannot sand-paper, or paper carrying any other grinding or polishing powder, be formed into suitable shapes to reach those parts where the ordinary disks will not go, and at the same time retain their flexibility? Many attempts have been made to overcome the difficulty of which I speak, but with only partial success. We have "depressed disks," which come to us in the shape of very shallow saucers or plaques. They are useful for some cases, and handy, as far as they go; but they do not go far enough. Then we have various appliances to be used with the disk, which bend or curve it in such a way that one edge is diverted from the proper path of its revolution, and made to reach out after the unattainable. I do not doubt that many dentists have found them to answer the purpose admirably for which they are intended, and that they have been able to overcome the unconscionable tendency of the disk to rumple itself into a hopeless state of tanglement, just at the moment when the desired portion of the operation was about to be achieved—or to refrain from using language shocking to the ear of a sensitive patient, when the rubber-dam is suddenly and violently torn from its fastenings, and sent whirling around a