

there could be such a result from the use of amalgam. A few years ago he made more extensive researches, and reiterated his former conclusions more forcibly than ever. I might quote, *in extenso*, from English, German and French authors of the highest repute, who approve of and use amalgam. I am not disposed to believe that the State Dentists of Europe, and such men as Tomes, Naysmith, Saunders &c., are prompted to use amalgam by any of the considerations Mr. Bowker assumes, viz.: "cheapness, want of skill, ignorance, or the want of honesty."

Nothing, however, more conclusively reveals the truth than the facts that, with some few exceptions, the American dentists, who so violently opposed amalgam in 1845-47, now use it. Some who even continue to condemn it, admit that they do so, because there is a danger of it being abused, while some few still maintain the same objections to the improved amalgam that they held towards "Royal Mineral Succedaneum." To day you may go into dental offices in New York, and witness the operator filling teeth from a pot of amalgam, which is mixed and kept ready for use at all hours! (Sundays not excepted.) I presume the proportions are 64 parts of mercury to 36 of silver. Now because there is this abuse of the material, that is neither logical nor scientific argument against its proper use.

Dr. Pierce, late Professor of Dental Physiology and Operative Dentistry in Pennsylvania Dental College, says: "Many attribute results to amalgam that are due to its improper use. That there are teeth that can be saved for a much longer period, and with greater advantage to the possessor with amalgam, than with foil, especially as some dentists insert foil; no unprejudiced practitioner can deny."

Dr. Buckingham, Dean and Professor of Chemistry in Pennsylvania College, says "he uses amalgam in his own practice, and thinks a dentist to do justice to his patients, should use it in certain cases. Had never seen a case of salivation from it, and had strong doubts of it ever producing ptyalism."

Dr. McQuillen, Dean and Professor of Physiology in Philadelphia Dental College, and editor of the well-known "Dental Cosmos," says: "He had had strong objections to amalgam, and had opposed its use; but candor compelled him to say that his views had changed, and he does not now regard it as the unquestionable cause of all the difficulties ascribed to it; for in an experience of fourteen years he could not recall a single instance of ptyalism &c., of which others asserted they had seen so many. He looked upon those who had asserted to have seen them, with considerable doubt as to the value of their judgment and opinions as reliable diagnosticians."