

MISCELLANEOUS.

WEDGING BETWEEN TEETH.

We commend great caution to our brother practitioners in reference to wedging between the centrals. We must always keep in mind that there is a suture between the palatal bones in the median line, and if this is forced open by a little undue violence, or a little hasty action, we have done more mischief than we can repair in a life time. We were never friendly to wedges when we could avoid them, but sometimes the use of them is imperative. At any rate the file has had its day, and we are not shocked by the opening, looking like an ugly V, that we once were accustomed to see between the molars and bicuspidis in former days.

When we have a cavity to fill which is cervico-approximal the best plan is to drive a properly fashioned wedge of orange wood in, very near the gum. Next select a wedge a little wider than the first and drive it steadily down between the crowns, and in three or five minutes enter and drive another (get this one of hickory and let it be of the shape best adapted to the purpose), and drive it between the crown wedge and the approximal surface of one of the teeth you intend to fill. This, of course, loosens the cervical wedge and it must be replaced by a thick, narrow wedge which you design to remain in while operating upon the cavity. The great point to be gained is to acquire sufficient knowledge of the amount of force to be used. If too much is used you will cause needless pain and do serious damage. When we have obtained sufficient power over the subject to do all well, we urge upon the experienced operator the necessity of wedging *as rapidly as possible*. We admit that doing the wedging quickly causes a little more pain than when it is done more slowly, but any little soreness left upon the teeth may be removed by tincture of arnica, applied to the cervical portions of the teeth, which places it in contact with the pericementum and the periosteum of the alveolar process. When we have several teeth to fill, operations by wedging may be commenced on those at a distance from the tooth we begin to fill, in this way we allow time for the wedges to swell, and the teeth may part.

And here we urge upon our young friends the strong necessity for making longitudinal and transverse sections of all the teeth that may come into their hands. The odd half hours, so often left to go to waste by the young dentist, cannot be better employed than in