

dissolved, and underlying dentine generally softened to a gelatinous condition: amalgam and gold, and amalgam and tin and gold.

Front teeth, for sake of appearance, where too large fillings in gold, or any other metal, serve to draw the attention of the public to the defective state, inlaid portions of porcelain teeth, Rastaing & Doulson cements, Davis' gold (a gold formerly used, of a very light straw color); and finally, I would fill with amalgam and the other plastic materials, where I thought they could be of use, to suit the cavities in those teeth—abounding so numerously in the mouths of "poverty;" in those cases, gentlemen, good deeds in amalgam are better than gold, when you have no time to afford the latter for sympathetic charity.

These are a few of the conditions and places where I conscientiously would prefer plastic fillings as superior to gold. Where one evades the necessity of taxing the patient and himself to a complete exhaustion, through operations in gold of unusual magnitude and extreme length, and which often finally leave a doubt—a cringing doubt in the minds of conscientious men, if he has really benefitted his patients in accordance with the Hercules-like manipulation necessary to such work.

The dentist may earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, but I do not think he is justified in making his patient the victim of unnecessary suffering, and then sweat his purse for the sweating undergone by both.

If the teeth of civilization are yearly degenerating, then more means must be sought, for resisting their decay, than the sole mechanical use by one material, viz.: gold, applied in all cases and conditions.

If we aim to relieve suffering and prolong the use of organs necessary to a healthy being, then searching for cause and observing effect, we must break the bands of established usage and teaching and treading our way over new fields of extended and accurate observation, we may arrive at a goal, where we will find that our efforts in "plastic" models for the great monument "Preseveration," may later be petrified into the permanent marble of success.