

be used which is made of a thick, stiff, unyielding material. The material should be of such a nature that it will yield to the pressure of the plugger, and admit of being forced slightly away from the margin at any given point. Then the matrix should not be applied tight to the tooth. It should be sufficiently loose so that in connection with its pliability the operator will have no difficulty in carrying the gold well between the matrix and tooth, thus effectively overlapping the margins. For this purpose wedge-shaped pluggers should be used, with the outline of the point made slightly convex to conform with the curve of the cavity borders. The gold should be carried well up the sides of the cavity in advance of the centre, so that direct pressure *against* the margins may be had. By observing these precautions there will be little danger of defective margins.

Another argument often urged against the matrix is that it obstructs the view of the cavity. This holds good when the broad band matrix is used on a mesial cavity in a molar or bicuspid. This should never be done, as the matrix in that case certainly does hide the cavity. But when the matrix—no matter how broad—is placed on a distal cavity it not only does not obstruct the view, but in many cases brightens up the cavity by reflected light.

In a mesial cavity a matrix seldom is needed, except just at the cervical margin to form a pocket for starting the filling. The writer has used for this purpose broken pieces of watch-spring, which are about the required curve to fit the tooth at the neck. These are narrow and do not hide the cavity, and are held in position with a loosely adjusted wedge.

As to the kind of matrix most universally applicable, the writer has found the Brophy band matrix to work the most satisfactorily in his hands. It is quickly applied, is so thin that it can readily be passed between the teeth, and sufficiently springy to admit of being forced away from the margin of the cavity, as occasion demands.

The writer has sufficient faith in the matrix and in the dental profession, to believe that when the latter fully understands the former, there will be a corresponding alleviation of the weariness and annoyance experienced by the average operator in filling these large distal cavities in molars and bicuspid.

(Exhibit Brophy and Dunn matrices.)