

have been in the habit of using extensively. (Reads from book number of different formulas.) I have been studying the reports of these experiments for some years, and I have come to the conclusion that amalgam as we use it, is a thoroughly unreliable filling material. One thing that has been quite clear to-day will be the putting on the market of an alloy that has been already annealed, so that whatever it is at one time, we may expect it at another. It will always have the same characteristic. We are just at the mercy of the manufacturers in this respect just now, and until some manufacturer makes an alloy that will always be the same, we are at their mercy. We had an illustration of this the other night before the Clinic. One of the members of the Toronto Dental Society said that he made some fillings some years ago, at least some time ago, and he saw them occasionally, and they were beautiful fillings, and they kept beautiful, and he thought this was a very fine alloy, so he brought a sample of it and made a filling before the Clinic, and before it was over he was talking about crawling all around that filling in the tube, it had shrank to such an extent. Now, the probability is that he got it fresh cut, and now it has got annealed by age, and it is not worth anything at all. One thing, we will have to go on using the present amalgams until we have something better made. There is one question I want to ask, and it is this: Whether the partial success of amalgams as we have been using them, is or is not due to the antiseptic property it exercises, especially if it contains copper?

Dr. BLACK—Well, I don't know that I can answer that question satisfactory to myself. I venture this. If the amalgam filling is perfect, no matter how much the amalgam blackens, the walls of your cavity will remain clear and bright to the margin of the filling, as much so as if the filling had been made with gold. If the margins are imperfect it will be discolored. If we take a silver pin and thrust it through the flesh, as in surgery we often do, we will find all of that outside blackened after a few days, but if we remove it we will find that that portion of the silver which is in contact with the living tissue is bright, has not lost its color. Just so with the amalgam filling. I hope that some of these days we will see our amalgam filling standing, perhaps black, with the margins of the cavity of the teeth perfectly bright up to the margin. We see it in our gold fillings. Now, if there is any antiseptic imparted to this material it is not sufficient to prevent decay. That is certain, because we do see decay progressing right alongside amalgam.

Dr. CLARK—I want to know if there is any amalgam that we can purchase now that will give good results, and who makes it?

Dr. BLACK—I can tell you what I know about that. I have myself nothing to do with the manufacture and sale of alloys. I