

lower teeth, by slipping it between the teeth till the dam is secured by ligating.

To prevent rubber from slipping, dry the teeth well and apply solution of sandrac varnish, or touch the necks of the teeth with powdered resin. This will often save ligatures.

Rubber dam should always be either soaked or touched with vaseline before applying.

Vaseline is a very useful article in a dental office. I use it for many different purposes : mixed with a little iodoform for covering inflamed pulps, for touching sand-paper disks to keep them from catching the rubber when polishing fillings, to prevent hot burnisher from sticking to gutta-percha fillings, rubbing on the under side of rubber dam to aid in applying to the teeth ; for these and many other purposes it is preferable to soap.

Experiments with Amalgam.

By B.

I have been experimenting for some time on amalgams. First, I put into nitric acid, one part to four of water, a lump of hard amalgam ; second, hydrochloric acid one part to two of water ; third, sulphuric acid one part to two-fourths strong vinegar. A lump of dry amalgam has remained in each since yesterday ; the only effect noticeable on either is a slight action of the nitric acid darkening slightly the surface without any perceptible change ; none of the others have undergone any perceptible change, but remain clear and white.

Now, any of these preparations are sufficiently strong to act with energy on teeth in the same length of time, and any of these acids would, if retained in the mouth any length of time, excoriate the entire mucous surfaces. Good amalgams are composed of pure tin and silver, and amalgamated with pure mercury. Water does not decompose mercury, silver or tin to any perceptible extent ; nitric acid dilute acts on silver, also mercury, separately, and less so on tin, heat facilitating the action ; when the three are combined, as in amalgam, the acid action is greatly lessened. I do not believe that any action of the fluids of the mouth is sufficient to produce any mercurial salt capable of acting injuriously to the