

reached it will be necessary for those who are loyal, to try and stimulate a spirit of enthusiasm into those whose apathy leaves our number, here present, so small.

I would like to see, as the watchword of the Eastern Ontario Dental Association, improvement of the quality of thought and motive, as well as improvement of ability to render the best service to our patients.

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### ROOT FILLING.\*

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In introducing the subject of "root canal filling," I do not intend to spend any time discussing the various methods of cleansing the canal preparatory to the insertion of the filling. All that I desire is to bring before you to-day the various methods adopted by the dental profession, in general, to fill the root canals after they have been properly prepared to receive a filling.

Just here I desire to give expression to my firm conviction that no matter how good a filling material may be employed, a root is not properly filled unless it has been thoroughly cleansed and made antiseptic.

To attempt to discuss all the different materials that have been and are being advocated by different gentlemen of our profession as "the best thing I ever came across" would doubtless be very interesting if one had the time and facilities to collect the different articles on the subject. I intend, however, to discuss only the well-known root filling materials and the manner in which they should be manipulated.

An ideal filling material should possess these very essential qualities. It should be impermeable to water. It should prevent the egress of irritating fluids from the canals into the apical space, and *vice-versa*, it should prevent the transudation of fluids from the apical space into the canal. It should not be affected by its surroundings. It should be unirritating to the soft tissues it may come in contact with. It should be sufficiently plastic to permit of a perfect adaptation to the walls of the root canal. It should possess mild antiseptic qualities—at least it should be perfectly aseptic while it is being inserted.

Raw cotton is advocated as a root canal filling material by a no less distinguished personage than Dr. J. Foster Flagg, of Philadelphia. He claims that when tightly packed into a canal, it is almost if not wholly impermeable to the action of water, and that the natural oil it contains makes it a non-irritating filling material.

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\*Read at Eastern Ontario Dental Association Meeting.