

CYLINDER FILLING.

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This method of using gold is altogether too much ignored at the present day. There are thousands of dentists who never use a cylinder. There are some very important advantages in their use.

But what is a cylinder? A "rope" cut into short lengths does not make cylinders. Cylinders are made by folding, carefully, a whole or part of a sheet of foil, so as to make a long and narrow strip or ribbon. The width of the latter should be that of the length of the desired cylinder. This is to be wound around a broad or small four-sided drill, until the roll of gold is large enough. A small, clean piece of paper should be used between the thumb and finger, in which the ribbon should be placed, that it may not be soiled by the exhalations from the skin. The latter is a point too much neglected by those manipulating gold. Mr. Spackler, instrument maker, of this city, has made me a very nice instrument for making cylinders. It is a pair of delicate tweezers, the two arms of which, near the points, are not larger, combined, than No. 25 wire. The arms are adapted to each other for a quarter of an inch from their points, so that when they are brought together they hold firmly the "ribbon" which is to be wound around them. When the tweezers are closed, these arms, in contact, look like a single shaft. A spring, easily opened, holds the arms tightly together, when closed.

Large cavities, with favorable walls, may be very rapidly filled with cylinders. They are placed on end at the bottom of the cavity, and project above its superior margin, as much as desirable, then with a "foot" instrument condense against the sides of the cavity.—Proceed in this manner until the cavity is nearly full, using smaller cylinders as the space grows less. It is not convenient to use a cylinder to fill the last small space. It is better now to use pellets, and a plugger to force the gold to the bottom of the cavity. This can more surely be done than with a cylinder. Care must be taken, as the cavity grows smaller, to keep the bottom of the cavity filled solidly, and if the cavity is very deep it may be necessary, after using long and large cylinders, to lessen the depth of the remaining cavity by inserting a solid floor of pellets.

When full, the gold projecting above the cavity should be condensed with shallow-serrated, or smooth pluggers. These cylinders, projecting above the superior margin of the cavity, make a beautiful