

old, the old, sneering at the new, and still both of them blending and combining in practice. Mallets and punching, annealed and unannealed gold, plastics, coppered and non-coppered amalgams, yet in spite of all the teeth go to the dogs, or to the forceps, and artificial teeth are the last refuge of the majority of dentists. There is yet a great deal to learn about teeth and their preservation. The older we grow and the more we learn from experience, the less we find we really do know. We occasionally see a young dentist just fledged from college who really assumes to know it all.

Cotton waste holder, to make: Take a deep glass or porcelain box, such as a tooth-powder box. Cut two slits in the top of the metal screw cover, in the form of a cross, one inch or a little more in length; press down the four points into the box; the slits will catch the cotton and pull it off the plyers or excavator. By putting in a piece of sheet lead cemented to the bottom or a little shot to weight it, every dentist may make himself a very handy little receptacle for bits of waste cotton, bibulous paper, etc., without taking off with his fingers. It is always clean, easily made and self-acting.

Dr. Abbott says that he considers the preservation of exposed pulps one of the greatest achievements of modern dental surgery.

In 1850 there were only two kinds of base plates in use—silver for temporary and gold for permanent.

Copper amalgam is very useful for many things in dentistry, besides filling teeth. It may be used for fastening a tooth on a rubber plate, making a full crown for back molars, making matrices for striking up a gold cusp or articulating surface for a gold crown, strengthening or reinforcing plaster models, cusps or any part of the gums or root of a tooth, or a whole tooth may be readily built up in the impression before running the plaster into it. This is often very useful when it is necessary to fit a gold or platinum band round a tooth or root, as the amalgam tooth is quite hard enough to burnish on, while the plaster tooth is frail and would be broken. The amalgam can all be saved and used over and over again.

Dr. Putnam claims to have been the first dentist to ever use a vulcanizer in making teeth.

Statistics show that there are more first molars lost than bicus-pids. Dentists then as a rule should take out the molar in preference to a bicuspid, except in extreme cases.