

Because in every case there is a strong probability that the outer portion of the apical foramen may be unprotected, and, moreover, the place where the living and the dead tissues join is always a weak spot. And after all has been said and done, and the greatest care has been used, a gouty lymphatic or plethoric patient may most unexpectedly give us a very serious example of periodontitis.

Dr. Truman : Before filling a canal it must be properly treated, and no tooth is properly prepared where the canal is not free from decomposed tissue. As the dentine is made up of innumerable tubes, and that these contain organic matter, if this material undergoing decomposition is not included in the treatment it becomes a constant source of danger to the tooth. It is necessary to reduce this to an insoluble compound, and this is best done by keeping the canal under the action of oxy-chloride of zinc. This, in my judgment, is at present the best known filling material for canals. I am aware cotton is a good filter for micro-organism, and as long as it is not disintegrated in the canal it may be an effective agent ; but when this does occur the results are exceedingly disastrous.

Dr. Kirk : Filling root canals with cotton armed with carbolized cosmoline, is, in my judgment, no argument in favor of cotton, but one in favor of cosmoline. The cotton is merely incidental, in the same way it is often used in connection with oxy-chloride of zinc, viz.: as a vehicle for carrying to place the real filling material, which is the cement. Cosmoline is a heavy hydro-carbon oil, totally unalterable in air or moisture by virtue of its non-affinity to oxygen. It is sufficiently viscid to remain in the canal almost without the help of cotton, which, in its relation to the cosmoline, fulfils the same function as the old root filling of gold saturated with gutta-percha solution.

In its general characteristics, a root filling of cosmoline and cotton would be very similar to that of paraffine, which is exceedingly valuable, and can be pumped in a melted state into the finest canal—with the advantage that when it is chilled and solidified it is denser.—*International*.

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### Thoughtful Words.

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At the banquet of the Harvard Dental School Alumni, Governor Ames, in the course of his speech paid a high compliment to the dental profession. He said :

“Dentistry, has, in fact, become a science ; and it is a very useful science. Health depends in no small degree upon the proper mastication of food, and the dentist enables many of us, who but for him would be unable to do so, to eat properly. In two principal ways he aids us—by rebuilding