

second bicuspid tooth, the removal of the decomposed dentine exposing the pulp which was found to be in a perfectly healthy condition.

Treatment.—After carefully removing the carious portion and giving a proper form to the cavity for the retention of the filling, the next step in the operation was the protection of the pulp. For this purpose recourse was had to the oxy-chloride of zinc, which was prepared by combining the powdered oxide with the liquid chloride in the form of a thick paste.

These preparations of zinc should be of the best quality, and thoroughly mixed together, so as to form a paste which does not present a watery appearance upon the surface; care must also be observed that the paste does not commence to solidify before it is introduced.

In order that no time might be lost after the mixing of this paste to the proper consistency (as it rapidly hardens), the cavity was first dried, and then carefully protected from moisture by requesting the patient to keep the napkin in place about it with his fingers. The paste as soon as prepared was applied directly over the exposed pulp on a small piece of soft linen of a size corresponding to the bottom of the cavity, both surfaces of this piece of linen being coated with it.

After the introduction of the piece of linen, the cavity over it was completely filled with the paste, and this temporary filling protected from moisture for about twenty minutes, this time being necessary for the proper hardening of the material. The surface of the filling was then made smooth with a burnisher, and to protect it for a still longer time from moisture, was painted over with a coating of sandarach varnish. Collodion also answers a good purpose for thus protecting the surface; these directions applying more especially to temporary fillings of these preparations of zinc, which are intended to remain in the teeth for some months.

An engagement was then made with the patient for the following week at which time it was determined to permanently fill the tooth should no untoward symptoms arise.

The tooth remaining perfectly quiet from the time the temporary filling was introduced, until that of the second engagement, the method pursued was as follows: All of the temporary filling, composed of the oxy-chloride of zinc was removed, except that portion of it covering the bottom of the cavity, and immediately over the pulp, care being taken not to cut through this or in any way to injure it. When this was accomplished a gold filling was introduced by hand-pressure (as