

The Doctor found a new articulator in one of the depots after getting to St. Johnsbury, one invented by Dr. Cushings, of New Hampshire. It is too light in its construction, and would easily get out of condition—too complicated.

The greatest fault to be found with the articulators like the Gritman or Snow (which it should be named), the Bonwell and others having requisite width, but still lacking in not having space enough at back to easily articulate the teeth. And this may be one of the causes of poor articulations, the operator being often unable to see the working of things inside, and so neglects to give it proper attention.

KEEPING CAVITIES DRY FOR DENTAL OPERATIONS.

· BY R. E. SPARKS, M.D., D.D.S., L.D.S., KINGSTON, ONT.

The advantage in all cases, and the necessity in some, of keeping cavities dry for their successful filling, suggests the above as a subject for a paper. Amalgam is probably the only filling material which may be used with any degree of success in cavities exposed to moisture.

That better results may be expected, even with amalgam, if the cavity be dry, is not likely to be challenged. Very little success may be expected with oxyphosphate or oxychloride of zinc cements if the cavity be not dry; and, indeed, to obtain the best results with these cements it is necessary to keep the filling dry for some time after insertion. We find many otherwise good cement fillings entirely washed out at the cervical walls. I attribute this condition to the introduction of moisture at that point when the cavity was filled. This is a serious condition. Better far that the fillings be worn upon its grinding surface, as the patient is deceived by the apparently perfect condition of the filling until some day, or perhaps worse, some night, he awakens to the fact that the tooth which had been so comfortable for, it may be, some months, has become unbearably painful. Examination reveals the fact that the cement has been washed out at the cervical, and decay has proceeded, involving the pulp, and that the filling has utterly failed in the object for which it was inserted. Non-cohesive gold may also be inserted with some degree of success, in favorable cases under moisture, but dampness entirely overcomes the cohesive property of gold.

With these facts before us, we turn our attention to the different methods of keeping cavities dry during the operation of filling