

labial surfaces of the enamel, filling the balance of the teeth with tin foil. They are in as good condition to-day as they were twenty-three years ago. It is necessary and right to save the teeth of those who are not able to pay the large expense of gold work, and if we have a material that will save teeth, it seems to me it is our duty to use it. Tin is one of the best materials for saving teeth, and we should use it more than we do.

DR. ST. GEORGE ELLIOTT (London, Eng.).—It is to me a very great pleasure to return to this country and find that tin is at least beginning to have a large number of advocates. In Europe we all look upon Dr. Abbott, in Berlin, as the father of modern dentistry there. He was one of the earliest, though not the first, to use tin foil, and he did so very successfully. He carried it out in his own practice, and his son-in-law, Dr. Miller, took it up, as did also Dr. Jenkins, of Dresden. For ten years I have used it very largely. I have averaged from four to five or six fillings a day. The greatest advantage of tin and gold has not been spoken of. You know if you get a preparation of tin and gold in correct proportions, there is practically a chemical union between the two, and you get not only hardness, but a certain amount of expansion. It is exceedingly valuable in filling crown cavities of molars. Its hardness is not immediately gotten. It takes from one to three years to harden. Its color is its disadvantage; it approaches that of amalgam. If you will use certain proportions you get a better color, but you get it at the expense of hardness.

PROF. JAMES TRUMAN (Philadelphia, Pa.).—It is with a great deal of gratification that I find, even at this late day, after forty years of practice in the use of tin foil, that it is coming up again with honor. I have long been satisfied that the profession has lost much in the abandonment of this material; perhaps the reason has been largely due to the fact that tin foil originally, as my friend Dr. Darby said, was not well made; then again, less attention was paid to having the surfaces clean, and also from the fact that very few who practised with this material used it as I would, that is strictly upon the cohesive principle. In using the tin foil on the soft gold plan, it is necessary as far as my observation goes that the foil be packed in the cavity as solidly as gold. When this is accomplished, you have a filling that will resist mastication upon any surface. I have tested this for years, and I find that masticating surfaces filled with this character of material last from twenty to twenty-five years perfectly. The therapeutic properties of tin foil have been spoken of, and I believe there is a chemical action on the tooth-structure, but what that is I am not prepared to say. You will find tin foil much better adapted for use in the case of soft teeth. It has been asserted that it is better for children's teeth, but I would place it in all teeth except the anterior teeth;