

the alloys in my hand. I tried the Christian Science method, and tried to make up my mind that it was all nonsense, and mercury had no effect on my system, but it was no use, my old trouble came back, and I can assure you, gentlemen, that I am through mixing amalgam in my hand. ' At the time of writing this I can scarcely walk, as I have rheumatism in my left side, and it is the first time I have had it since 1874-5.

Now, at the time Hitchcock tried his experiments in 1874, the amalgam question was well ventilated in regard to shrinkage and expansion, and I fail to see where Dr. Black or anyone else has brought about any new facts.

Dr. Black says in *Cosmos*, 1896, page 983, that the greatest shrinkage occurs in an alloy, silver 55 and tin 45. I have prepared this alloy, it is marked No. 4, and you can judge for yourself as to its shrinkage. Dr. Black also says on the same page, "I had thirty-four tubes filled with this alloy by as many dentists at the Illinois State Dental Society; the next day I was chagrined at finding about half of the fillings loose in the tubes. Now, if there were half of them loose, and it was the fault of the alloy, why not all? Then, again, on page 983 he says, "If so little mercury is mixed with the mass that it will only make a dark powder that can be made to cohere by strong pressure, the shrinkage will not be quite so great. Still, if so much mercury is mixed with the alloy as to make a very sloppy mass, and this is put in without removing any of it, the shrinkage will be considerably reduced." He also says that these alloys that he has mixed contain about one and one-half ounces, and when melted he stirred them with a rod. Well, if this be true, and I have no reason to disbelieve it, I do not wonder that he received such results.

At the present time, in reading some of the ads. of the amalgam manufacturers, one would think that making amalgam had just been discovered. I fail to see at this late day why a man has got to take a course at college under Dr. Black to be able to make something that has been made for the past forty years or more. Now, Dr. Black may be a good dentist; however, I should say that he had spent a great deal of valuable time on amalgam, and I can't see that he has given us anything but what we knew years ago. It seems to me that the shrinkage business is all nonsense; it is the man behind the plugger that is to blame for leaky fillings. I have prepared quite a number of fillings in little glass bottles that I will pass around, and some of these, according to Dr. Black's test should shrink so that the filling should be loose in the bottles.

No. 1 is plastic alloy; you see it plainly shows if this was in