

cutting edge. Another form often seen, but which now seems to be in less favor, is what I should term the hoe spoon. This blade is straight like that of a hatchet until near the cutting edge, when it is bent laterally at an angle, and the cutting edge rounded as in the spoons. These are in pairs, as the spoons, and are true double plane instruments.

Other forms that have been used are almost endless, many of them without names, and very generally have disappeared under the law of unfitness for the purposes intended.

#### RULES FOR CONTRA ANGLING.—RECAPITULATION.

*1st.* All blades, the angle and length of which will bring the cutting edge more than three millimeters from the central line of the shaft, should be contra-angled.

*2nd.* All instruments with angles of 12 centigrades or less, when requiring contra angles should be binangle-contra-angles.

*3rd.* All instruments with angles of more than 12 centigrades, when requiring contra-angles should be triple-angle-contra-angles.

*4th.* When the contra-angle is used the cutting edge of the instrument should be brought within two millimeters of the central line of the shaft, or better—when the contra angle is used the working edge should be brought just so near the central line of shaft that when the instrument is laid edge downward upon a plane surface the edge should just touch, but not actually rest upon the surface.

*(To be continued.)*

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#### A LITTLE HINT.

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Dentists could save themselves much from the unpleasantness and unhealthfulness of inhaling their patients' breath, while performing long operations in gold filling, when the rubber dam is applied, by placing a sheet of paper from a gold-foil book before the patient's nose, securing it under the dam and elastic fasteners. It also prevents the moisture from the breath coming in direct contact with the gold while packing. This makes it equally agreeable to the patient. This suggestion may not be new to many of our professional brethren, but it would be well if it were more practised.