

points in a solution of permanganate of potash for twenty-four hours, to show their permeability to moisture. Before passing them around I would just like to say that my own opinion is that a slight tendency to absorb does not make as much trouble as many writers would have us believe; but I think it well to have our root fillings as impermeable as possible and slightly antiseptic.

Results:

1. Chloro-percha shrinks and becomes porous.
2. Chloro-percha and gutta-percha were impermeable as far as gutta-percha went.
3. Oxyphosphate absorbed moisture.
4. Oxychloride absorbed moisture to a considerable extent.
5. Silver amalgam was impermeable, but inadvisable on account of the difficulty in its use as a root-filling.
6. Cotton and cassia, and cotton and camphro-phenique indicated, are permeable to a slight extent.
7. Vaseline and zinc oxide showed no traces of absorption of moisture.
8. Mummification paste dissolves to some extent.
9. Vaseline, and vaseline and aristol do not show any signs of absorption.

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## TREATMENT OF BLIND ABSCESS.\*

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The same principles that apply to the treatment of an ordinary alveolar abscess hold good in the treatment of a blind abscess, it being simply one that has failed to establish an outlet or external fistula. Dr. W. C. Barrett, in *Oral Pathology and Practice*, defines it as one in which there is a cavity of decay communicating with the pulp chamber, and in which it is possible for the pus to be drained through the pulp canal.

The first step in the treatment of a tooth threatened with an alveolar abscess—and I may as well say in one where the disease exists in any stage—is the adjustment of the rubber dam over the diseased tooth to preclude the possibility of the entrance of any germs in the oral secretions into the pulp chamber. This should be the invariable rule.

The opening into the pulp chamber should always be made on a direct line (or as close to that as possible) with the end of the root in single-rooted teeth, or in a line as far as possible commanding the ends of multi-rooted teeth. Do not depend on a

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\* Read before the Ontario Dental Society.