

been battling with this subject of dentistry for forty-one years, and to become at all known more than ordinary is to load a man with great responsibility. I have tried to make preparation for such meetings as yours and have prepared this model which is carved with wood, a half section of the lower jaw, and a bridge has been made to supply the loss of several teeth from first bicuspid to second molar. I may say the first bicuspid and second molar have been used for anchorages. The molar has been trimmed down. I have a tooth that represents the normal condition of this tooth, and you see it is leaning forward. The difficulties that are met with are, straightening the leaning tooth and dressing it down upon the sides, so as to make it possible to form a band to enclose the tooth and make a proper anchorage. Anchorages are very important in bridge work, and if they are carelessly prepared and greater strain comes upon the abutments or anchorages than they will stand, the teeth are often weakened and destroyed. I don't know that I can do more than talk about this, and at another sitting with you I may endeavor to show you in clinic some of the methods I bring into use. A long bridge on one side where the opposite side has no opposing forces often results in the destruction of the bridge through too great stress, and will sometimes cause bridge work to be discarded by those who have attempted too much.

I do not stand before you as having always succeeded in bridge work. I have had very many failures, and yet those very failures have been stepping-stones to attaining a higher standard in the work.

Supplying teeth by gold removable plates or bridges is often better than permanent bridges. In speaking of these cases I will try to describe to you my method of treating a tooth which has no occluding tooth above. We will say the occlusion goes forward of this molar. In such a case it would not be necessary to grind away the cusps of the tooth, and it would be very easy to make a cap of gold for the tooth. Suppose my cuff is the band I am to form. My manner of forming a band is to wrap a piece of gold about the tooth. I am not in the habit of taking measurements, but by the eye I judge the length which I must cut my gold to form the band, and pressing it over the tooth to close it up and model it. Then, allowing it to lap, I join the piece of gold at this point (illustrating the upper edge), leaving the balance open so that it is less rigid in after work of fitting. Instead of soldering I weld the gold at this point by using borax either rubbed on a slate and applied with a brush or enough taken on tweezers to coat the surface. Then with a blow-pipe bring up almost to melting heat the portion that laps, thus fusing the surfaces so that they unite.