

appearance is an object, this method is *par excellence*. Never attempt to insert and polish an inlay at one sitting. Let the cement harden thoroughly, then make a second appointment for the final smoothing and finishing. Occasionally you find teeth which from the moment of their eruption seem marked for destruction. This is particularly true of the six-year molars, decay often commencing at a dozen different points. The surface of the enamel seems pitted in every direction. I find it easier and less expensive to the patient in the end, to immediately adjust a gold shell covering the whole tooth.

Combination fillings are quite the fad nowadays—combinations of gold and amalgam, cement and gutta-percha, etc. I have found the latter a very satisfactory method. How often we examine an oxyphosphate filling and find it to all appearances perfect, until we discover a pocket along the cervical border, leading directly to the pulp. Gutta-percha is especially valuable here. Place a small pellet at the cervical border of the cavity, finishing with cement. A chlora-percha lining is recommended for the entire cavity before filling with cement, though I have not tried it. Gutta-percha as a permanent filling has a limited field, but it is almost indispensable in cervical or buccal cavities, those exquisitely sensitive points of decay next to the gum. Where it is properly protected, I find it more valuable than gold or amalgam in low grade teeth. In using gutta-percha it is essential that the largest possible portion of both enamel and dentine should be carefully conserved. It is not important that the walls of the cavity should possess thickness or strength—every portion of enamel should be saved. Gutta-percha should always be finished from the centre toward the edges of the cavity. As a final finish, use a moderate amount of pressure to consolidate the filling.—*Odontographic Journal*.

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### Dental Education.

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A large part of the union meeting of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Dental Societies was occupied with the important question of education. Dr. Jack's address was scholarly and practical, and we regret that we must merely outline it. Speaking of the professional functions of men, and the high educational requirements for entrance upon a professional career, he shows that the absence of this training is principally responsible for the existence of the pettifogger in law, the quack in medicine, and the fanatic in theology.

"Up to a recent period, nearly all applicants for matriculation were received, and since a preliminary examination has been required, the standard has been of too elementary a degree, and unfortunately is conducted by those who have had the interest to make up as large a class of matriculants as possible."