

If the work has been neatly done, cement will not show, and you have, to all appearance, a contour gold filling with less gold showing, however, than if built up and with an occlusal surface made of hard gold, that may with safety be brought to as thin a cutting edge as desired.

I have said nothing of anchorage, and some may be asking the question, "Will it stay?" The tooth having gold on all sides except labial, no ordinary force can dislodge it when applied in any direction, unless down or in—the two directions not necessary to particularly guard on the upper jaw. As a rule, I depend upon the fitting of gold into the two proximal cavities and turning over the beveled occlusal edge, or if not necessary to turn the end and have gold show, fit into groove cut through occlusal surface. This is but slight anchorage, but sufficient to prevent the crown from tipping in, unless it first comes down a little.

The method I present for the restoration to form and usefulness of badly decayed incisor teeth is not universal in its application, but in the last six years I have found many places where it seemed to me the best method, and it has given great satisfaction both to myself and patient. I have used it oftenest on frail lateral incisors of the upper jaw, but in a few cases have found it just the thing for lower incisors so badly gone that I have doubted my ability to restore with gold fillings, and did not consider them good subjects for porcelain crowns. Have also had some pleasing results from applying the principle to bicuspid, when I have found the buccal enamel and cusp in good condition, yet the tooth demanding a crown of some kind. You can give such a tooth the appearance of having a contour filling, with but little more work than making a shell crown, and the finished work will be much less conspicuous. For a bicuspid, a good strong pin should extend from gold on occlusal surface well into pulp canal, as strong anchorage is demanded. I do not know as I have made myself very clear as to why I object to Richmond crown. I do not object to the Richmond any more than any other, but take the position that a crown should be the very last resort. I do not think the Richmond crown the "thing of beauty and joy forever" that some esteem it.

If you do succeed in banding the root so that it will be protected without infringing upon the dental ligament or making a large show of gold, in matching the color and shape of adjoining teeth and in retaining the shade after passing through the fire, you have a presentable case; but permanency is not secured, and your tooth will not be a match in color when ten years have been added to life of patient. The natural teeth will darken with age, and the artificial remain the same. I will grant, for argument, that your Richmond crown will last for fifteen years. I have no fear but