

With gold it happens often that the pellets have not been as thoroughly condensed at the lingual margin as at the labial. From this cause as well as from that of leaving very thin walls and margins at the same position, decay recurs there readily. Again, there are attempts made to fill cavities with gold where portions are almost inaccessible. Gold fillings inserted in approximal cavities so that they reflect upon each other, giving the appearance of dark spaces, decay or amalgam filling, amount to a failure in appearance.

Filling any approximal cavity which has been prepared, leaving the occlusal wall very thin and frail, is a cause of frequent failure, this thin wall giving way from mastication.

Large metal fillings with no intermediate non-conducting material like cement, gutta percha or balsam varnish to prevent thermal shock, at the least produce much uncomfortableness and often result in death of the pulp with its attendant more serious consequences.

Filling over a dead putrescent pulp can hardly be named a simple failure, unless done by mistake, which is surprisingly possible. Wilfully done it amounts to gross malpractice.

One failure in filling is in not filling, as in the case of the permanent teeth of children where the quality is hopelessly poor. In such conditions the anterior teeth, and if possible a molar and bicuspid for each side of each jaw, might be preserved in some way until about the age of twenty-one.

There are reasons for these and other forms of failures which at least a number of us have had. Having discovered a cause we should do well for our patients and ourselves to set up danger-signals in noting the cases in some practical way. Some of our professional brethren have been and are particularly helpful to us all by publishing in journal and in book the location and kind of some of the rocks upon which we have or might ignorantly run, also the methods by which we may avoid, remove or destroy the obstacles. We both profit by and show our appreciation of their efforts by reading their charts, then choosing courses intelligently for ourselves. Self-reliance will help anyone, but added to this, the more we assimilate and incorporate into self from observation, study and practice, the more there will be to rely upon, failures will be fewer and success greater.

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