

enumerate the various ways in which amalgam and cement are used in combination, all of which ways have their merits and their drawbacks, which will be quite familiar to those who read this note. Obviously, the only way to utilize the re-heated amalgam in combination with cement was to heat the amalgam button and mix the cement simultaneously, and immediately incorporate the amalgam with the cement mass. This procedure gave a grey mass, which retained the adhesiveness of the cement, set hard in the same time as the cement, and burnished within ten minutes of its introduction to a fine metallic lustre.

The chief obstacle to the use of re-heated amalgam had hitherto been the rapidity with which it passed from the plastic to the solid state; this very rapidity of solidification now became its most valuable property, for in a combination filling the fact that the two constituents set at the same rate and in the same time seems to be of the first importance. I have inserted some 200 of these fillings, so far with complete satisfaction. The color is fast and they wear well.

The proportion of amalgam to cement may be varied according to the fancy of the operator, the masticatory strain the filling is destined to bear, and the size and shape of the cavity. Absolute dryness is an essential condition to success, and I should say it was futile to try this combination without the rubber dam.

Experience, and that alone, will teach the operator what are the best proportions in which to mix, and enable him to seize the propitious moment for the introduction of the stopping. This moment I believe to be just previous to the time when the mass would roll in the fingers without sticking. Just as much care in the introduction, packing, trimming and burnishing of the filling is required as the dentist can lavish on it; but I think the result, provided he has by previous experiment mastered the idiosyncrasies of his material, will repay him for his trouble.

I use Eckfeldt and Dubois' standard amalgam and Weston's cement. A nice range of color is procurable. I heat the amalgam in a copper-amalgam spoon, mixing the cement at the same time. The amalgam should be in little pieces, not bigger than a No. 6 shot, and I fancy the older it is the better.

I have tried all the other combinations of cement and amalgam, and shall continue to use them; but as my confidence in the particular combination I have described increases, I find myself using it more frequently, in, for example, the case of a large distal cavity in an upper bicuspid, where the patience or the purse of the patient is inadequate to the strain of a gold filling. Where the shape of the cavity precludes the use of amalgam, and where a cement filling one feels sure would rapidly wash away, it is in such a case as this that I find the re-heated amalgam and cement invaluable.—*Dental Record, London, Eng.*