

the balsam into a state of ebullition; for if air bubbles be formed, it is difficult to remove them, and if not removed they will prevent the complete adhesion of the two surfaces when applied to each other; the heat of the metal should never be so great that the fingers may not be held in contact with it for a few seconds without inconvenience. When air bubbles are formed, they may be removed by a small piece of wood tapering to a point; when the balsam is thought to be sufficiently concentrated, and all air bubbles completely removed, the slice and glass may be taken from the heated metal, and applied to each other. A slight degree of pressure will be necessary to expel the superabundant balsam, and this will be facilitated by gently sliding the one over the other; by this kind of motion any air that may have got entangled in the balsam, when the two surfaces were brought in contact, will also be removed. When the whole is cooled down to the temperature of the air, and the balsam become solid, that part of the balsam which adheres to the surface of the glass surrounding the slice, should be removed with the point of a penknife; and by this operation, it will at once be seen whether the balsam has undergone the requisite concentration; for if it flakes off before the knife, it will be found that the slice and glass will cohere so firmly, that in the subsequent grinding, there will be no risk of their separating from each other; but if the balsam has not been sufficiently concen-