



Note: Men and women are affected by their surroundings. Their minds are likely to be especially susceptible to outward impressions in a hospital. Unpleasant mental reaction—often having a harmful effect on the physical recovery of a patient—can be overcome to a large extent by the physical appearance of hospital interiors in general—by the color treatment of walls and ceilings in particular. This article, with others in the series, discusses color in relation to the various groups of individuals to be found in a hospital.

For the mender of bones and the foiler of death— C O L O R

THE surgeon poises his scalpel—makes the incision. Intense concentration marks every movement as he continues the operation.

He looks up. For a second he seeks relief from eye-strain. He turns his eyes on the wall of the operating room—and blinks. His eyes close—dazzled by the glare of white-coated walls or disturbed by some unrestful color.

Nothing should be present in an operating room which might interfere with the surgeon's operating efficiency. With that in mind many hospitals have banned white from operating-room walls. They have found that certain colors which are restful and soothing to the eye tend to make the surgeon's work less of a strain and help him to even greater efficiency.

Here in the operating room there is no problem of selecting the proper color to produce a favorable mental reaction on a patient's mind. The problem is one of visibility—of helping to make the surgeon's work a little easier—of aiding him to mend broken bones and save lives.

Grays and gray greens suitable

Various color treatments have been used in operating rooms by hospitals throuout the country. Nearly all have been improvements over

white. Of the various colors adopted, grays and gray greens have probably been most satisfactory.

Below is an actual color treatment in use today in an operating room. It was recommended by color specialists of National Lead Company's Department of Color Research and Decoration after consultation with the hospital authorities. These specialists are men who have made an intensive study of color and its use in hospital decoration. They are working with hospital administration boards, superintendents and architects throuout the country, preparing paint specifications, painting formulas and color samples. They have recommended color treatments for operating rooms and other parts of the hospital for institutions in every state.

Here is the treatment adopted by one hospital for its operating room:

Ceiling . . . A light yellow, just off white. Obtained by mixing French ochre and Dutch Boy white-lead.

Side walls . . . A gray, made by adding French ochre, lampblack and Venetian red to Dutch Boy white-lead.

Trim . . . A finish just off white, obtained by adding French ochre to Dutch Boy white-lead.

It would be inadvisable to assume that your operating room should have the same treatment. Such factors as the amounts of natural and artificial illumination received, the location of the room, its size, as well as the color preference of the surgeon in charge, vary with hospitals, and separate recommendations should be made in each case.

Our Department of Color Research and Decoration will, without expense to you, work with you in deciding what colors to use. And no matter what tint or shade your operating room (or any other part of your hospital) requires, you can always obtain it easily by adding the proper tinting material to paint made of Dutch Boy white-lead and Dutch Boy flatting oil—a paint that is durable, washable and economical in every way.

If you have any question regarding the use or selection of colors in your hospital, address our Department of Color Research and Decoration in care of our nearest branch.



NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY
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