

For nerves a-tingle and minds in confusion COLOR



EXCITED, overwrought nerves, vibrating like a violin string under the bow—throwing normal mental reactions into chaos. Here is a common state of mind in modern life. What can the hospital do to calm tingling nerves—restore the ordered functioning of the brain?

Prescribe special treatments? Yes. And place the patient in a special room—in an atmosphere made more soothing and restful than usual by proper use of the right colors.

It has been proved that certain colors, when placed on walls and ceilings of hospital rooms and wards, help to produce certain mental reactions. Where patients are especially sensitive to color, the influence of color in creating a certain atmosphere, and thus in inducing a certain state of mind, is proportionately greater. Where else in the hospital, then, could color be more effectively used than on the walls of special rooms for nerve cases?

Cheerful warmth or soothing coolness

Two questions arise in connection with colors for walls of such rooms. The first concerns the correct colors to use. The second has to do with the tints and shades of those colors.

Hospitals have proved that the ideal color for creating soothing, quieting impressions is a green—perhaps a blue-green, called a cool green; or a yellow-green, known as a warm green. One hospital has

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 reactions—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.

used the following paint treatment in rooms for nervous patients:

For the ceiling . . . A light yellow, made by adding French ochre to Dutch Boy white-lead.

For the upper side wall . . . A yellow-green, obtained by mixing medium chrome yellow and medium chrome green with Dutch Boy white-lead.

For the dado . . . A deeper green than above, made by mixing French ochre and Chinese blue with Dutch Boy white-lead.

For the wood trim . . . A light yellow, a mixture of medium chrome yellow, French ochre and Dutch Boy white-lead.

What colors should you use?

This color treatment is in actual use today. But it does not follow that the same treatment will be suitable for your hospital. There are so many factors—illumination, location of

the room, size of the room, etc., to consider in selecting the right tints and shades that it is inadvisable to try to make the same ones do for several hospitals without careful consideration. Each room should be considered as a separate color problem.

Dutch Boy paint for all

No matter what color you do use, you can easily obtain it by tinting paint made of Dutch Boy white-lead and Dutch Boy flattening oil with the proper coloring pigment. You can get a beautiful, durable wall finish that can be washed as often as necessary without harming the paint film.

To help superintendents, administration boards and painters in selecting the colors which will have the greatest and best influence on their patients, our Department of Color Research and Decoration has been established.

Color specialists who have made a study of hospital decoration will help you prepare paint specifications. They will furnish color samples of the recommended colors and also painting formulas.

If you have any questions regarding the proper colors to use anywhere in your hospital, write our Department of Color Research and Decoration, in care of our nearest branch office. Our men will gladly work with you without expense to you in selecting a color treatment for your entire hospital or any room in it.



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