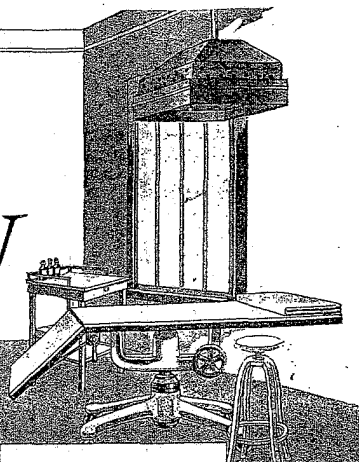


GRAY or GREEN

Which color
for your operating
room?



IN modern hospitals an important question today is, "What are the correct colors to put on walls, ceilings and woodwork of different rooms?"

This question was raised in connection with the decoration of the operating rooms in a new hospital in the Middle West.

There existed a variety of opinions. One suggestion was a green described as "eye-rest green"—another, "pearl-gray or moss-green"—a third, "spinach green"—and a fourth, "a gray-green or warm gray."

The question was referred to the color specialists of the Department of Decoration and Color Research of National Lead Company. Here was the answer given to the hospital:

"While you personally incline toward greens, others have recommended grays and greens without apparent reason. It has been the belief that the sidewalls should reflect as much white light as possible in order that the brightness of the room could be increased to the highest possible degree. This is an entirely mistaken idea.

Color should absorb light

One of the most important functions of the sidewall in an operating room is to absorb to a very appreciable extent the direct light which strikes it. When an operation is being carried on, sufficient illumination is provided for the surgeon at the point of operation by direct rays coming as a rule from some artificial source close at hand. The walls, acting as absorbers of light rather than high reflectors, should offer relief to the surgeon on glancing up from his work.

"To provide a surface that absorbs rather than reflects light, we first deepen

white-lead paint to a gray by the addition of lamp black. Second, we design the formula as to provide a flat painted surface that will diffusely reflect the light which it receives instead of reflecting it back in direct rays that produce glare as in the case of a paint possessing high gloss.

"Whether that gray is afterwards tinted slightly off on a green or blue order, is quite unimportant, provided it still retains gray as its dominant characteristic."

This is an example of the many questions which arise. Every part of a hospital—indeed every room—offers a separate problem. The factors of illumination, room size, the use of the room—these and others vary constantly. Private

NOTE. The new note in modern hospitals is *More Color*. The use of tints and shades on walls and ceilings, in draperies and other furnishings in leading institutions is no longer a question for discussion. It is a fact. And from the use of certain colors has come proof to replace theories and beliefs about their therapeutic value. This article and others to follow are written to help spread knowledge of what has already been done in hospitals in putting colors on walls and ceilings and wood trim.

rooms with southern exposure demand different color treatment from those shut off partially or entirely from direct or reflected natural light.

Color help for you

All of these considerations involve a careful, thorough analysis of conditions. Realizing this fact and desiring to aid superintendents, National Lead Company established its Department of Decoration and Color Research headed by color specialists.

Superintendents, architects and hospital boards have obtained free help in deciding on interior color treatments which have been produced most successfully with flat paint made of Dutch Boy white-lead and Dutch Boy flatting oil.

Washable paint finishes

This paint, tinted as desired, gives durable and economical finishes which can be washed as often as desired. Shades and tints can be matched exactly at any time with this paint, for it is mixed specially for each job.

If you wish to avail yourself of the free service of our Department of Decoration and Color Research in selecting and using the proper colors in a single room or the entire building, write to it in care of our nearest branch.

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