

Why Paint Saves Lives

GERMS have killed a vastly greater number of people than have fallen in all the wars ever fought. No wonder so many brilliant minds have been devoted entirely to the wiping out of these enemies of man. One of their most practical discoveries is that paint is a foe to germs.

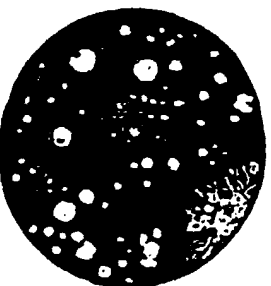
A test of paint's sterilizing power was recently carried out in the Institute of Industrial Research at Washington, D. C. On a laboratory wall one coat of paint was applied to a small area. After drying, the painted surface and the unpainted area next to it were lightly rubbed with a different swab which had been moistened with sterile water. The moisture in each swab was then squeezed out into plates of agar sugar, a jelly-like mixture in which germs easily multiply. Examination showed that the plate made from the unpainted area contained a positive bacterial growth. The one made from the unpainted area

showed a negligible growth. The illustrations show the results in both cases.

Then a culture of three species of germs each of a death-dealing type were mixed with a dry powder and blown upon the two surfaces—painted and unpainted. Similarly the germs in a sterile liquid were sprayed on other portions of the same surfaces. One

hour later plates were made in the agar the same as before and the growths were positive tho not so pronounced from the painted area.

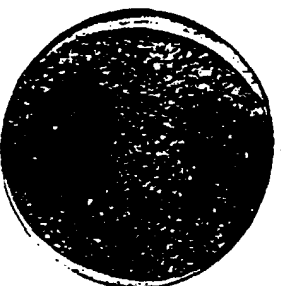
Plate I—Showing abundant bacterial growth in culture from unpainted section of wall.



Next the two surfaces were washed with soap and sterile water. Plates in agar were made an hour later. The agar containing the culture from the unpainted area showed abundant growth while the culture from the painted area showed very little.

These tests conclusively prove that if a painted surface becomes contaminated the source of danger may be removed by washing and also that infected surfaces may

Plate II—Showing negligible bacterial growth from painted section of wall.



be made sterile by painting. These results are probably not so much due to any germicidal properties which paint may possess, but to the fact that the old surface is covered with a clean washable film of paint.

The danger of an unpainted dingy or rough wall is that it will retain moisture a long time and that its porous nature makes it easy for floating organic matter to collect. This kind of wall cannot be effectively washed, so that the two factors necessary for quick bacterial growth—moisture and organic matter—cannot be removed. If a wall is covered with a good waterproof coat of paint such as produced with white-lead-and-oil, its smooth sur-

face is easily washed and need afford a resting place for That is why every inch of in a hospital is painted.

The lesson learned by the hospital can well be put into practice in the home. In the where food is prepared, where painted surfaces are unquably needed; sleeping and rooms and particularly in require the same protector ideal feature about paint home of course is the fact that same operation produces a surface which beautifies.

Every painter and dealer make good use of these products selling paint or a painting job

Story of a Dickens Portrait

HOW white-lead largely made it possible for an artist to paint a portrait of Charles Dickens when the latter visited this country some eighty years ago, is entertainingly told in the following excerpt from a letter printed in a late issue of Brentano's "Book Chat." The letter was written about forty-five years ago, to the owner of the portrait, the writer being a student of the artist at the time.

James T. Fields, Esq.

Dear Sir:

"When in 1842 it was announced in the papers that Dickens intended to visit America, Mr. Alexander

(the artist) wrote inviting him for his portrait when he came."

Alexander like many artists had a habit of procrastinating and as the time approached distinguished stranger to from England. I occasion minded him of the necessity having a suitable canvas two-thirds length portrait. He had an excellent canvas size in his studio but he hesitated upon it a capital sketch in three of the 'foolish virgin

"When I spoke again he said, 'there will be time yet and that canvas with gins would make an excellent