



For the lagging hours, the restless days of convalescence— COLOR

"HOW wearily the moments drag along. Are the hours stricken with paralysis that they move so slowly? The days seem to get longer and longer!"

Disturbing thoughts such as these are likely to flash thru the mind of a convalescent patient as slowly returning strength brings renewed mental vigor—a desire for change of scene and physical action.

How can hospitals help to create the mental attitude that will best aid a speedy physical recovery? By placing the patient in an atmosphere made cheerful—soothing—stimulating. By creating such an atmosphere with the proper use of the right colors on walls and ceilings of solariums and of rooms where patients are still confined to bed.

Color? Yes, but what color?

Hospital superintendents thruout the country have successfully demonstrated that certain colors help to produce the favorable mental reactions that promote physical well-being. They chose those colors after answering two important questions; namely, "What impression do we wish to create?" and "What color or color combination will create an atmosphere which will tend to produce that impression?"

The physician and the surgeon who want their patients to be cheered—mildly stimulated—soothed—have found, together with hospital superintendents and specialists in color, that in many cases a yellow, a light yellow, successfully produces the desired atmosphere in convalescent wards. A suitable yellow can easily be obtained which brightens many wards that would ordinarily seem cold and lifeless.

A leading hospital has treated the walls and ceilings of its wards for convalescent patients as follows:

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.

Ceiling—A very light yellow just off white, made by adding French ochre to Dutch Boy white-lead.

Side walls—A light buff, made by mixing Dutch Boy white-lead and a little more than four times the amount of French ochre used for the ceiling.

Wood trim—A buff, made by adding medium chrome yellow and French ochre to Dutch Boy white-lead. This is between the ceiling tint and the side wall tint in color.

The Solarium

The hospital solarium presents a little different problem. This room is usually brilliant whenever sunlight is strong and gets at any time the full natural illumination available. One hospital has found the following color treatment effective in helping to create an effect that is equivalent to a mental tonic for convalescents.

Ceiling—The same color treatment given above for wards.

Upper side walls—A light yellow green, made by mixing lemon chrome yellow, medium chrome yellow, lampblack and Dutch Boy white-lead.

Dado—A blue-green, obtained by adding French ochre and Chinese blue to Dutch Boy white-lead.

Wood trim—An ivory, a trifle darker than the ceiling, made with medium chrome

yellow, French ochre and Dutch Boy white-lead.

Altho the above treatments are in actual use today, they probably will not be suitable for every hospital. There are many factors to consider in selecting the right tints and shades of the right colors. And it is inadvisable to try to use the same colors for all hospitals without careful study of each institution.

Dutch Boy paint for all

No matter what color you 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 desired influence on their patients, our Department of Color Research and Decoration was established some years ago.

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.

Simply write our Department of Color Research and Decoration, in care of our nearest branch office. Our men will gladly work with you without expense on your part in selecting a color treatment for your entire hospital or any room in it.

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