

Note: More and more, hospital authorities are using color instead of white in decorating interiors. With that in mind this article and the others in the series were written. The previous articles dealt with red, yellow

and gray. Those in succeeding issues will discuss blue and green.

These articles are by M. Rea Paul, consulting colorist of National Lead Company.

Blinding ... Cheerless WHITE

HOSPITAL interiors are losing their "institutional look." They are creating a cheering, restful effect on patients, visitors and hospital staff alike. The reason is that in many hospitals the traditional white is no longer used on walls, woodwork, and ceilings.

Physicians, surgeons, superintendents and architects have all had a hand in banning white finishes. They have proved that white is cold and cheerless—a negative influence on the minds of patients. They have learned that certain colors have a stimulating effect on jaded, depressed minds, while others have a quieting, soothing influence on excited, unstrung nervous systems. Thus, the proper colors are positive aids to recovery, especially during the convalescent period.

This belief that white should not be employed in hospital interiors is growing constantly. Hospital authorities find that the use of tints does not lower standards of cleanliness and sanitation. Neither does it lower the standard of durability and washability. Paint made of Dutch Boy white-lead and Dutch Boy flatting oil is durable and washable to the extreme. It is easily tinted to desired colors by very small additions of tinting colors.

*We can help you select
color treatments*

The question of what colors to use

Color is gaining ground rapidly in hospital interiors, lending a feeling of softness and warmth to walls, woodwork and ceilings where once only cold, dazzling white was ever present.

The case against white

THE following quotations are reprinted from articles on the subject of white vs. color. If you desire to read the complete articles, we can refer you to the sources from which these thoughts were taken. For further information regarding use of color in hospitals, address our Department of Decoration in care of our nearest branch.

"The use of colors for walls and ceilings of operating rooms in lieu of white is now general. Different shades of gray, green or warm grays, all without gloss or lustre, are being used extensively. There is a reaction from having everything in the wards white and without ornamentation."

"Now a more sensible view prevails that tends to colors which are more pleasing and restful to the patient and do not lower the standards of cleanliness and sanitation."

"White, so long associated with hospital interiors, is giving way to light gray and tans; even the brilliant white tiles of the operating room having been replaced by dull light gray in the newer hospital institutions. . . . Next to white, light tan or buff, cream, light blue, light gray and light olive green have the highest reflection factor and at the same time are colors that are not likely to cause eye fatigue. Even in the operating rooms, the absence of white is conspicuous. It has been found that the operating surgeons and attendants are annoyed by eye strain and their eyes become tired when working in rooms finished with highly glazed white tile where white, glossy equipment is used. All the tables, chairs, cabinets and other equipment are painted a dull gray in numerous instances, instead of the usual white enamel."

"Each ward contains eighteen beds, and all beds and furniture in all parts of the hospital are brown instead of white. This relieves the dismal tombstone look which is so prominent in some hospitals."

considered a separate problem. The interiors of your hospital may necessitate lighter or darker tints or shades than similar interiors in another. The colors you should use can be decided on only after consideration of the illumination, exposure, the size of the room and the use to which the room is put.

You can with no expense obtain the cooperation of our Department of Decoration in selecting the proper colors for any room in your hospital or for the entire building. The specialists in this department have made a study of hospital decoration and the therapeutic value attributed to color. They are working today with hospital administration boards, superintendents and architects on the subject, preparing paint specifications, paint formulas and actual color samples.

More than 200 hospitals throughout the country are successfully using the color treatments recommended by this department. If you wish further information regarding the service that this department can render you, write to the Department of Decoration in care of our nearest branch.



NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY

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