

Note: Hospital authorities are exercising more and more care today in the selection of the proper colors for decorating interiors. With that in mind this article and the others in the series were written. The previous

articles were on red and yellow, while those in succeeding issues will discuss white, blue and green. These articles are by M. Rea Paul, consulting colorist of National Lead Company.

NEUTRAL RESTFUL GRAY

It can be made to create an atmosphere of warmth in some hospital rooms and coolness in others.

GRAY is a color that is suitable for operating rooms, private rooms, wards, and corridors. It has been found to have a soothing, quieting influence on patients' minds.

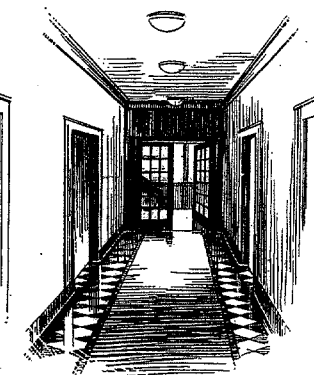
There are many types of gray—ranging from the lightest gray, which borders on white, to the darkest gray, which approaches black. In an ordinary room that receives a normal amount of natural light, a gray that reflects 47% of that light gives the proper amount of illumination.

But not all rooms in a hospital receive a normal amount of light; some get too much, others too little. A gray, to serve efficiently as a side-wall decoration in over-illuminated rooms, should be darker than the gray referred to in the preceding paragraph. In rooms which receive less than normal light, the gray should be lighter.

Grays for specific rooms

SELECTING the proper gray for operating rooms is an especially important matter because it is necessary to get a side-wall treatment that will not distract the surgeon's eyes. The gray to be used must be carefully lightened or darkened, to counteract the possible lack of sufficient illumination or the presence of too much light.

What may be considered as two other types of gray are the warm grays and the cool grays, which also may be lightened or darkened to



reflect the proper amount of illumination.

In rooms or wards having a northern exposure, adding a touch of red or yellow to gray relieves a feeling of coldness. In rooms having southern exposure, adding a touch of blue or green to gray overcomes a feeling of excessive warmth.

All colors in which gray predominates are easily obtained by tinting paint made of Dutch Boy white-lead and Dutch Boy flattening oil with the proper coloring pigments.

But remember that every room should be considered as a separate problem. The interiors of your hospital may necessitate lighter or darker tints or shades than similar interiors

in another. All that we can do here is suggest the possible uses of a color which should, however, be modified to suit conditions varying according to the illumination, exposure, the size of the room and the use to which the room is put.

Let color specialists help you

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 to you, write to the Department of Decoration in care of nearest branch.



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