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Duncan Curry, J-3

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COMMENTS ON PROPOSED INFIRMARY LAYOUT - SITE NAN

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I have gone over with considerable care the proposed layout for an infirmary building to be located at Site Nan. In my opinion this presents a number of glaring deficiencies. I would like to bring to your attention, therefore, the following points:

1. In each of the alternate proposals is a space designated as "soak area." In each case this area is nothing more than an alcove bulging out from the main corridor of the building. If one wants a soak area, this is not a very good arrangement. I question, however, the necessity for such an area. Extensive soaking of hands and feet went out of style 15 years ago when penicillin came in. Such soaking as must be done can and probably should be done in the dispensary area.
2. I question the need for a "dispensary" and a "surgery." With the small amount of surgery which will be done, I feel that these two rooms should be combined into one which would be larger than either of the rooms as now shown but which could be considerably smaller than the sum of the two.
3. The dispensary should properly be located adjacent to the doctor's office as shown in Scheme 3. The X-ray room should probably be located on the other side of but still adjacent to the dispensary. A seriously injured man brought in on a stretcher will more often than not be carried to the X-ray room first of all and then to the surgery. Doors should be arranged, therefore, so that a stretcher could be carried either into the dispensary or the X-ray room presumably through a communicating door.
4. The storage space, in my opinion, is inadequate. Furthermore, there is absolutely no provision made for doing any sort of laboratory work. There should be space where there can be at least a microscope, an alcohol lamp or hot plate, and a sink.
5. An instrument sterilizer for boiling up instruments, syringes, needles, etc., would presumably be in the dispensary. There should also be a small autoclave situated somewhere so that the heat and steam it gives off will not be a nuisance.
6. Regular meals presumably will be carried from the mess hall. There should be, in my opinion, some provision for keeping cold drinks, preparing coffee and other light snacks.
7. There is shown in the layouts a doctor's office but no place in which other attendants of the infirmary could sit down and relax. Such a nurses' station should be readily available to the ward.

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8. The toilet should also, of course, be adjacent to the ward. In my opinion, a single toilet bowl for this facility is inadequate. I would recommend two toilets plus one urinal. In the absence of an epidemic of diarrhea, one of these toilets should be reserved for infirm staff.

9. The only space for janitorial supplies seems to be a mop sink located in the toilet. There should be adequate storage space for brooms, soap, toilet paper, etc., inside the building and space outdoors where mops could be dried in the wind and sun.

10. The various schemes indicate a minimum of eight and a maximum of ten beds. I would not argue with any of these numbers. The beds will obviously be arranged to suit the whims and fancies of the doctor and the demands of sun, wind, and rain.

The building, as shown, is to be 56' x 24'. I believe that the suggestions I have made above could be squeezed into a building of this size although it might be simpler if we took the extra four feet and made it 60' x 24'.

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