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Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

1900-I

Apr. 9, 1910.

Commissioner-General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

It becomes more apparent every day that the sleeping accommodations of this station must be very much increased in the immediate future. We have berths here for 700 aliens, but owing to the different sex, class, nationality, etc., it is not possible at all times to use all these berths, as for example, at the present moment while we have 540 aliens here in detention, the major portion being male Chinese, over 100 Hindus and 30 or 40 Japanese, with a mixture of scattering, practically fill us up.

It was originally intended to place 1000 berths in our present rooms. I feel satisfied that to put so many in would crowd us too much, but we could use with the space we have now 200 more berths without any trouble, and it is requested that we be supplied with the same by express, as I know that by the 1st of June, unless immigration falls off, we shall not have room for everybody.

In addition, another barracks building should be put up this summer having accommodations for at least 500 more people, and also having one room fixed up with a number of cells for prisoners and unruly detained aliens. This is one of the items I had in view when asking you to recommend an additional appropriation of \$100,000. from Congress. We are extremely short of office space and sleeping accommodations for our own employees, but this I will take up more in detail at a later date.

Respectfully,

W. H. Wood
Commissioner.

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Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

MEDICAL DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

April 13, 1910.

The Commissioner of Immigration,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:--

I have the honor to request that the following necessary alterations be made in the Immigrant Hospital building, and I append to each the reasons therefor:

- (1) That a bathroom and clothes closet be made out of the large linen closet on the second floor opposite the operating room by installing therein a bath, toilet and washbasin in the outer two-thirds and partitioning off the inner one-third for a clothes closet, opening by a door into the bathroom; a communicating door to be cut in the wall between the new bathroom and the adjoining room, marked on the plans "Nurse's Room."
- (2) That a bathroom, 7'x5', be constructed in the southeast corner of the "Contagious Ward" on the first floor, and a tub, toilet and washbasin installed; the existing washbasin to be removed; the bathroom to have a door opening into the ward.
- (3) That one toilet and the wooden partitions in the watercloset on the first floor adjoining "Storeroom" be removed and a bathtub installed.

The above changes are necessary in order to provide bath and toilet facilities for the hospital employees and for the contagious ward. In the plans no such provision was made. As we have both male and female attendants it is necessary to provide separate bath and toilet for each sex.

- (4) That two showers and a toilet be installed in room marked "Bathroom" on plan, adjoining "Men's Ward, Chinese"; the slop sink to remain.

When the hospital was built this ward was not provided with bath or toilet. The bulk of hospital cases will be made up of male Chinese and Hindus. It is necessary to keep the races apart. By the above change each ward has its own bathroom and there can be no conflict between the races over the use of toilet facilities.

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(8) That a hot water tank similar to the one in the basement of the main building be installed in the furnace room and connected with the hot water supply pipes.

At present, hot water for bathing has to be carried in buckets through the hospital. Even with the kitchen in active operation the hot water supply would be inadequate as the tank connected with the range holds only 80 gallons, the greater portion of which would be required for the various apparatus in the kitchen and pantry.

(9) That the bathtub in connection with the "Men's Ward, Japanese" be replaced by three showers.

By substituting three showers for one tub the patients can be bathed more quickly and a great saving of water made.

(10) That the washbasins be removed from the halls of the "Men's Ward, Japanese" and "Women's Ward" and placed in the respective bathrooms.

The bathrooms have impermeable floors; the halls are covered with cork linoleum. The floors and walls under and around these washbasins are being soiled constantly by the patients using these basins for various purposes.

(11) That the washbasin in the hall on the first floor outside "Bedrooms" be removed.

This washbasin is behind a door, and, being unnecessary, should be removed, as it invites a waste of water.

(12) That the washbasin in the dispensary be removed and replaced by a sink; also, that the faucets over sink outside the operating room be lowered or replaced by longer ones.

The washbasin in the dispensary is a hand basin and totally unsuited for dispensary purposes. The faucets above referred to are so high from the sink as to cause splashing of the floor and walls whenever the water is turned on.

(13) That the central partition be removed from the ward marked on plan "Women's Ward, Japanese and Chinese" and placed in the ward marked "Women's Ward, European."

The ward now intended for Chinese and Japanese women has less light than any other ward and is still farther darkened by this central partition. We will

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always have some Chinese or Japanese women in detention and by making this change and using the rear ward, marked "European Men", for European women the two sexes will separated at opposite ends of the building.

(11) That the cork linoleum on the floors of the hospital be completed by dressing with thin white shellac or linoleum varnish.

The necessity for this is obvious. The dressing will make a smooth impervious surface that can be readily cleansed. As it is now, this floor covering is rough and porous. It catches dust and dirt and absorbs all liquids, often leaving unsightly stains, and it is impossible to keep it clean. The careless dirty habits of the class of Asiatics we have as patients will soon make it a menace!

(12) That the walls of the wards and hallways be painted with a thick coat of white lead and varnished, or with white enamel paint.

The patients have already mutilated the walls by writings, by smudges made by throwing mud or other substances against them and by digging away the plastering in some places. To minimize the accidental injury to the walls, it is proposed to remove the hospital beds and all chairs from those wards in which eye cases are held when the standee bunks are installed. By painting the walls it is hoped to prevent their mutilation and to allow of their being washed.

(13) That spring locks be placed on the doors of wards, linen closets, storerooms, dispensary, etc.

These are desired to insure the safe-keeping of aliens in the hospital and of hospital supplies.

(14) That a door be made out of a window on the east side of the "Japanese Men's Ward," with a gate in the wire fence opposite and the fence extended on either side to the hospital wall.

This is to allow the patients easy access to the hospital exercise yard without herding them through the hallways, down stairs, out of the front door and around the building.

(15) That the windows of the room marked "Nurse's Room" on the second floor in the front of the building be protected with wire screens ~~xxx~~ as are the ward windows.

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This is necessary as this room will be used for acutely ill cases and can not be kept locked, and the screens will be necessary to prevent the escape of aliens.

(16) That one radiator be removed from the "Women's Ward", the "Men's ward Japanese", the "Men's Ward, Chinese" and one from the main hall, first floor; these radiators to be placed, one in the proposed new bathroom on second floor and one in each of the three rooms marked "Bedrooms" on the first floor.

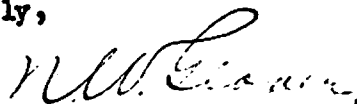
These bedrooms were unprovided with radiators when the hospital was built, and being on the first floor require artificial heat.

In addition to the foregoing, I would recommend the erection of two new buildings at either end of the hospital to be used for quarters--one for the medical officer in charge of the medical inspection and hospital, and one for the attendants.

The hospital, to be properly conducted, requires the constant supervision of a medical officer. Aside from this, however, the present condition is open to criticism in that the station is left without a medical officer from the close of business in the main building at 4:35 p. m. until the following morning.

The quarters now used for attendants will be wholly inadequate when the kitchen is put into operation, and even now a full complement of nurses and attendants could not be accommodated in the rooms used for that purpose. These rooms were intended for the accommodation of detained cabin passengers, but they were of necessity assigned to the attendants. There are at present no accommodations for this class of patients in the hospital.

Respectfully,



Passed Assistant Surgeon, P.H. & M.-H.S.