

THE LIGHTING OF THE EXAMINING ROOM 6

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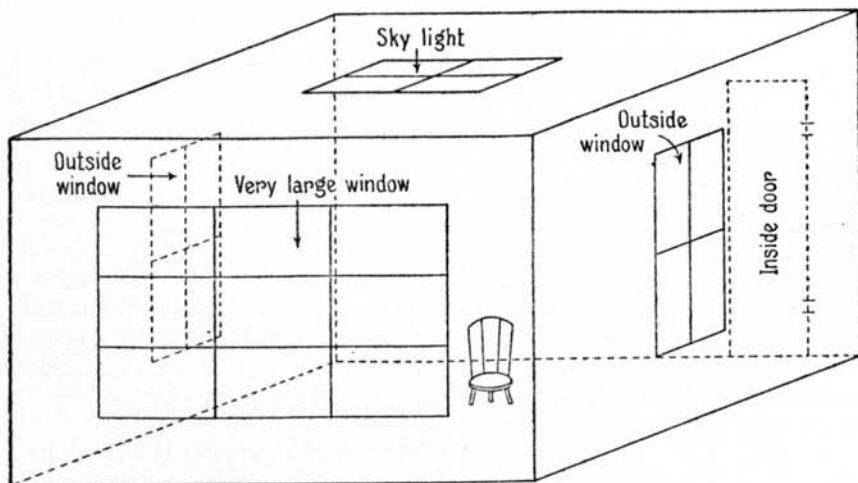
[During a recent visit to the Kalihi Leprosy Hospital in Honolulu the writer was shown, among other interesting features, the specially designed room in which the patients are examined with respect to their skin lesions. The principal feature of this room, the illumination, was superior to anything theretofore seen for the purpose. Though many of the skin changes of leprosy are easily observed in any well-lighted place, there are some that are difficult to define—or, indeed, to detect at all under ordinary illumination, as was clearly demonstrated in certain of the cases of early leprosy in children described by Dr. Wayson in the preceding issue of the JOURNAL. Lesions over which there was very little or no change of color, and which were so slightly raised as to be hardly detectable in direct light, appeared quite prominent in controlled oblique light. On request Dr. Wayson has supplied this brief description of the room. It will be apparent that the arrangement of windows cannot be duplicated everywhere, but undoubtedly a corner room lighted on two sides would serve as well as one with three windows, and where a skylight cannot be installed a high window, reaching to the ceiling, would provide oblique illumination.—EDITOR.]

The leprosy examining room at the Kalihi Hospital occupies the end of a long, narrow, one-story building, and therefore is lighted from three sides. In addition, there is in the ceiling, near the center, a light well or skylight, measuring approximately four by two and a half feet. The end wall of the building (the front wall of the examining room) contains a large window approximately seven feet high and ten feet wide, which occupies the greater part of the wall.

The glass in this window is frosted for about two feet from the bottom, mainly as a protection from onlookers from outside. Each side wall contains a window of standard dimensions. Shades of dark material, on spring rollers, are mounted on the skylight and on all windows, thus permitting a wide range of light adjustment.

The woodwork and walls of the room are painted a soft tone of green; the ceiling is white and the floor is gray.

The patient stands on a small circular platform on which there is a guard rail for him to hold to. The platform is mounted on a pivot in a heavy low stool with a circular top, and can be easily rotated by an attendant, so that various parts of the body surface can be brought into view under the desired conditions of light.



TEXT-FIG. 1. Examining room with illumination from three sides and above.

The observer stands with his back to the large window and the patient in front of him against the soft green background. The cross lights from the side windows and from the skylight are controlled as desired. The beam of light from the skylight has been very helpful to us in the detection of the perspective of lesions; and the recognition of slight changes in color of the skin has been facilitated by the adjustment of direct and cross lighting. This aid has been definitely noticeable in the examination of individuals of the dark-skinned races.

The arrangement of the lighting in this room has also enabled us to photograph lesions in a manner that exhibits their elevation from the general surface of the skin.

The sketch of the room (Text-fig. 1) is drawn as a cube (with the front window in the foreground), and no dimensions are given, since anyone making the same or a similar installation will necessarily adapt it to the space available.