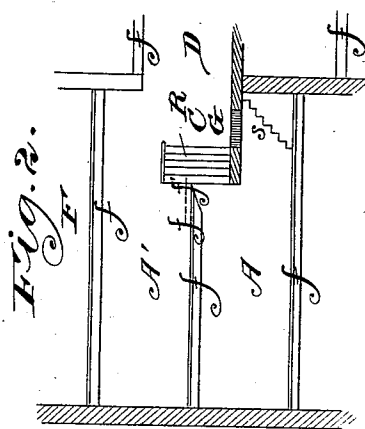
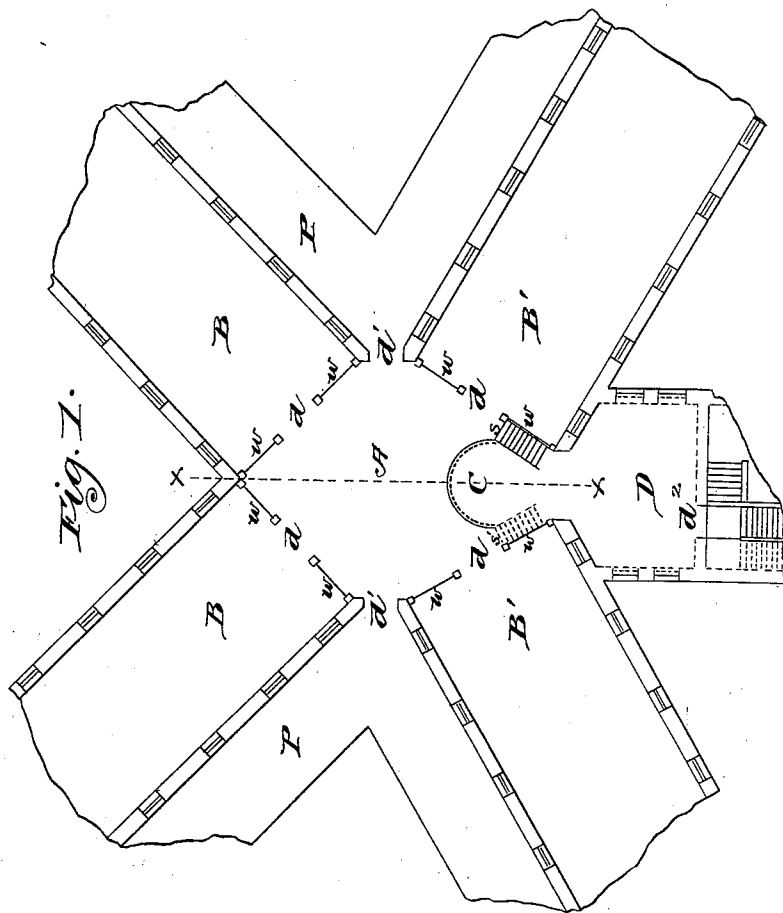


(No Model.)

E. F. WELLS.
CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS.

No. 508,455.

Patented Nov. 14, 1893.



Witnesses,
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By

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD F. WELLS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 508,455, dated November 14, 1893.

Application filed June 29, 1893. Serial No. 479,128. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD F. WELLS, of the city of Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain Improvements in the Construction of Buildings, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the construction of buildings wherein the residents or inmates are under supervision, and more particularly to the construction of schools, asylums, hospitals and prisons.

The object of my invention is to provide such a building with: first, an apartment or central room, which I term an observation room, wherefrom diverge wings or wards in such a manner as to permit efficient oversight being given their occupants; second, with an apartment, which I term a supervising room, and which is projected into the observation room to afford the supervising officer a place of surveillance from which he can command a full view of the observation room and wings; third, with two floors, each provided with an observation room and diverging wings, together with one supervising room, a part of which extends into each floor, and from which room a complete view of both floors is obtained, and, fourth, to provide various details of construction and arrangement as will be more specifically set forth hereinafter, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, wherein—

Figure 1 is a broken view setting forth my invention, and Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof on the lines $x-x$ in Fig. 1.

In said drawings, A represents the observation room, which may be of any desired size and shape, but which I prefer to construct of the form shown in the drawings. From the observation room, diverge the wings B, B', B'. It will be seen by reference to Fig. 1 that the wings B, B, are arranged at right angles with reference to each other, and that the wings B', B', are arranged at an obtuse angle with reference to each other. The wings are intended for the wards for the inmates of the institution. It is better to construct the wings and observation rooms together, without any demarking or separating parts, but this construction may be varied by inserting glass or other partitions through which, however, the interior of the

wings may be seen from the observation room. I prefer to construct the buildings with two stories, an upper and a lower, preferably similar in size and shape and each provided with an observation room and radiating wings. In the observation room there is provided a novel arrangement, which I term a supervising room, designating it by the letter C. A part of this room extends into each of the two observation rooms, the floor thereof being above the plane of the lower floor and below the plane of the upper floor. The supervising room projects out into the observation rooms, by preference, far enough to permit the supervisor to have a complete view of the interior of any of the wings on either floor. The floor of the room is preferably of glass as at G and the open end of the room is provided with a railing marked R.

D is the manager's office. The proximal ends of the wings may be left open or provided with transparent or openwork partitions W and doors d , affording ready view of the wards. The doors d' , lead to the porches P, and said doors preferably have glass sections to permit supervision of the porches from rooms A and C.

S, S' are stairways leading from the supervising room to the observation rooms of the lower and upper stories respectively.

Although I prefer the construction shown in the drawings, it will be understood that the number of wings may be increased or diminished and the angle of their divergence may be altered, and quarters may be provided for the officers in charge; such an arrangement I have suggested in the extension to D.

In Fig. 2, A represents the observation room in the first story and A' represents the observation room in the second story. The perspective ends of the wards are not shown, nor are all the stairways.

The arrangement of the several wings at the particular angles hereinabove described is such as experience has determined as the best. With such an arrangement every part of each wing is in view of the supervisor when at the railing of the room C. If the wings B' B' were arranged at right angle to each other or with their axes parallel to the axis of the wings B, B, opposite them, the angle of vision would not permit complete in-

specation and supervision, yet it is evident that these particular angles of construction are only essential when it is desirable to extend the supervising room into the observation and have the former occupy the smallest possible space in the latter, and yet command a complete view of all the wings.

I assign inmates of the asylum to the diverging wings; the field for the attendants is the observation room and wards, and the supervisor, whose functions are hereinafter explained, has his post of duty in the supervising room. While the supervising room is shown only in its use in common for two floors, it is manifest that each floor may be provided with a separate one, yet I do not favor such a construction. While I specially apply my construction to a hospital for the insane, and in illustrating the invention I have described it mostly for that use, yet it is equally adapted for use for other institutions, as for example, asylums, hospitals, &c., for epileptics, the feeble minded, deaf and dumb, aged, sick and other dependent or disciplined classes.

The advantages of this construction will be apparent by briefly reviewing the requirements experience has demonstrated expedient in conducting an asylum.

Insane persons have their comfort and safety jeopardized at the hands of themselves, their fellows and their attendants. These dangers become greater in proportion to the distance the inmates are removed from official supervision and control.

The plans under which this class of institutions are now constructed remove a large proportion of the inmates from the seat of official authority and necessarily prevents constant surveillance of the attendants and inmates so situated. Under the plan here submitted, the supervisor in authority is centrally located and has at all times a view of

every wing and occupant, and exercises a close, constant and immediate watch over the attendants and inmates, guarding the latter and detecting negligence, unkindness and cruelty and promoting discipline, while if the emergency arises, attendants can readily summon whatever aid or reinforcements they may require, and on account of the ready accessibility of each and every part of the institution it can be most efficiently and quickly rendered to them.

I claim—

1. In a building of the class described, the combination with an observation room, of three or more wings divergent therefrom and adapted to permit observation of their interiors from the observation room, and a supervising station in said observation room, substantially as described.

2. A building of the class described having in combination two observation rooms on different floors, three or more wings radiating from each of said observation rooms, and a supervising room common to both floors and affording a place of observation for the several wings of each, substantially as described.

3. In a building of the class described the combination of a central observation room and a series of wings radiating therefrom, two of which are arranged at right angles to each other and open into said observation room, and two of which are arranged at an obtuse angle with reference to each other and also opening into said observation room, substantially as described.

4. In a building of the class described the combination of the room A, the wings B, B', B'', porches P and openings d', substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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