

County Poorhouses on the Cottage Plan.

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II.

In my article in the August number of the MUNICIPAL WORLD, I give a perspective view of a County Poorhouse or House of Industry, constructed on the cottage plan. From an extensive correspondence with members of Boards of State Charities and correction in the United States, I learn that the consensus of opinion is decidedly in favor of the cottage system. The cottage system has long since been adopted as the proper system for the construction of industrial schools and juvenile reformatories, and it is now being adopted in the construction of asylums and hospitals for the insane. And at the present moment the State of New York

7. By the cottage system the rooms are better ventilated, and they receive more light and more heat from the sun, and this promotes good health and good spirits.

In providing for the classification of the sexes, it is ever to be born in mind, that the standard of morality among many of the inmates of county houses of industry is very low indeed, and for this reason they should be so separated, that they can never either speak to or even see each other. Hence it is necessary that the sexes shall be kept absolutely apart, not only in the building and the yards, but also at church service. This perfect insulating of the sexes can only be attained by the cottage system.

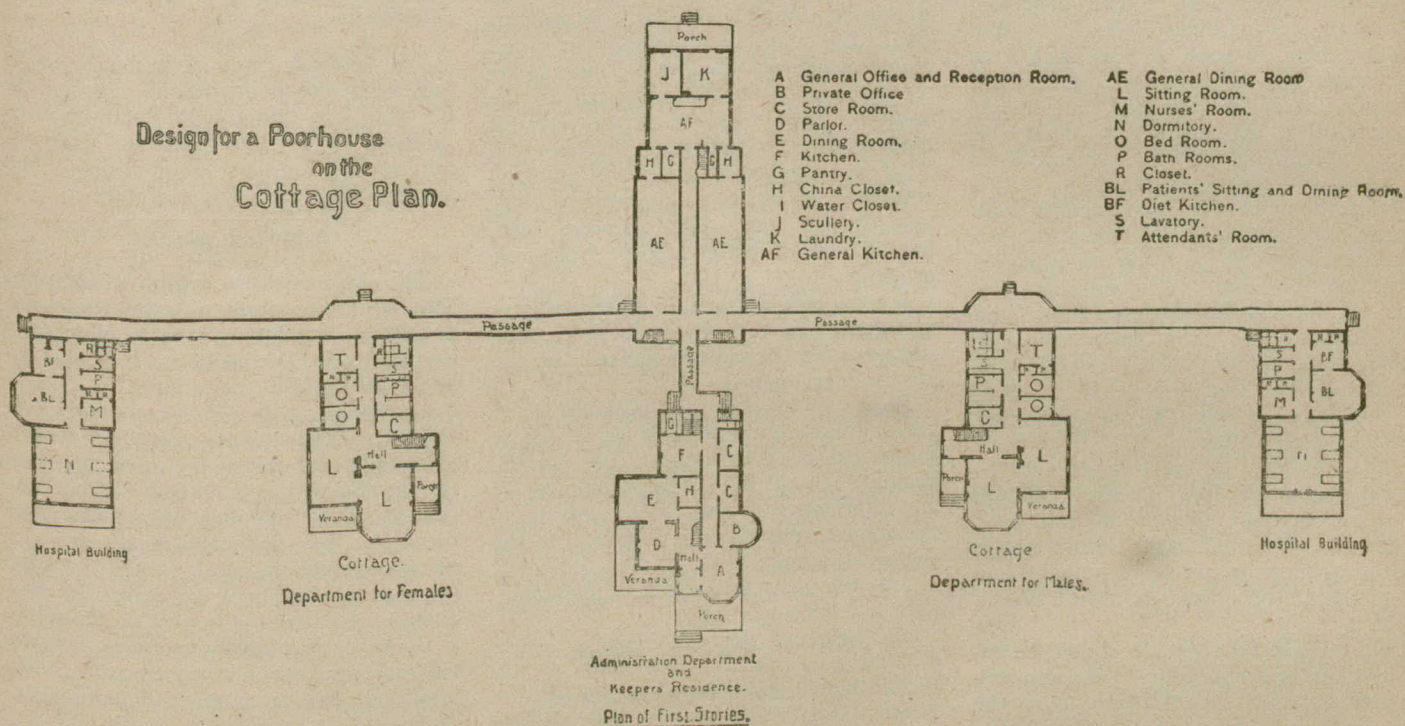
The plan of a county home or poorhouse presented herewith, was designed by Hon. William P. Letchworth, L. L.D.,

hospital, is not shown on the plan. The rooms on the ground floor are used as day rooms, while those on the next floor are used as dormitories. The room over the kitchen and dining-rooms is the chapel, and, for the separation of the sexes, this is divided into two by a partition the entire length of the room, except where the reading desk or pulpit is located.

The cottages are only two storeys high. In a poorhouse where so many of the inmates are old and infirm, it is not right that they should be compelled to travel up and down more than one flight of stairs, and moreover, in case of fire, egress is much more difficult in a high building; besides this, the cost of supervision is less when there are but two storeys.

It might be objected that the difference in cost is in favor of a higher building. With regard to this, Hon. Mr. Letchworth

Design for a Poorhouse
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is establishing a colony for epileptics on the cottage plan. In the construction of the county homes or houses of industry, the cottage plan presents many important advantages, among which may be enumerated, the following, viz.—

1. It effects a perfect separation of the sexes.
2. Caretakers are relieved of much responsibility.
3. It is safer in case of fire.
4. It is safer in cases of contagious diseases.
5. It removes the strong prejudice which many of the respectable indigent poor have against entering a county poorhouse.
6. It provides better opportunities for providing women with little delicacies which they sometimes require

of the State Board of charities and Correction of New York, assisted by George J. Metzger Esq, Architect, Buffalo N.Y. As already stated, the Hon. Mr. Letchworth has given this question special study for several years, both in Europe and in America. This ground plan is almost self-explanatory. In the centre and well to the front is the administration building and keeper's residence combined. In the rear of the administration building is the building for the two dining-rooms, and the kitchen and laundry. To the right is the cottage for the men, and to the left is the cottage for the women. To the right of the men's cottage is the men's hospital, and to the left of the women's cottage is the women's hospital. The hospital buildings and the covered passage ways are of one storey only, while the other buildings are two-storeys. The barn, which is to the rear of the men's

speakes as follows: "The difference in the expense of constructing a two-storey building and one that is higher is not so great as one would suppose, notwithstanding the cost of the roof is the same in both, because the sub-structure for a building exceeding two storeys is more expensive than it is for a two-storey one. The higher a building is carried the more it is exposed to the wind, which takes hold of it as at the end of a lever, bringing greater strain upon the various parts, thus requiring greater strength throughout."

Respecting basements in county poorhouses, the same high authority speaks as follows: "My observations have led me to the conclusion, that the evils resulting from the use of them have been so great, that these places should be emphatically condemned. I have never yet found a poorhouse basement that, at certain seasons of the year, was not damp and mouldy,