

REVISED JAIL PLAN KEEPS INNOVATIONS

But Parts Called Impracticable
Have Been Corrected,
Architect Declares.

DINING HALL A FEATURE

Detention House Will Have Chapel,
Emergency Hospital and Rooms
for Legal Consultations.

Innovations in prison construction and management are embodied in the revised plans for the \$1,000,000 House of Detention for Women, which it is proposed to build on the site of the old Jefferson Market at Sixth Avenue and Tenth Street. Plans for the interior of the building were practically completed yesterday by Benjamin W. Levitan, the architect, and will now be submitted to Commissioner Richard C. Patterson Jr. of the Department of Corrections.

After consulting with Mr. Levitan and inspecting the revised plans yesterday Supervising Warden Henry O. Schleth of the Department of Corrections hailed them as "the last word" in prison building, especially for a women's prison intended to care for first offenders and to segregate them from habitual criminals.

"The present Jefferson Market prison is a melting pot," said Warden Schleth, pointing out the diversity of prisoners and the similarity of treatment which they receive. "Here in our new building we are going to try to comply with the law in a practical and a most humane way."

For two hours late yesterday afternoon Warden Schleth stood over the new plans as they lay on Mr. Levitan's table in his office at the Pershing Square Building. With him stood Dr. C. W. Scheib, Acting Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Corrections Hospital on Welfare Island. Both men expressed satisfaction with the plans, and said they had corrected certain features which had seemed impracticable to Commissioner Patterson two weeks ago and which the Commissioner had ordered remedied.

The various prison departments will function independently. Warden Schleth insisted that the interior of the new prison would foil any attempted jail break. "The building is so bottled up," he said, "that even if we had men instead of women prisoners another Tombs riot could never take place."

Dining Hall Included.

Chief among the changes which Mr. Levitan has made in his plans is provision for a dining hall so that prisoners will not have to be served in their cells.

Warden Schleth said that strict precautions had been taken to guard against "shyster" lawyers in their contracts with prisoner clients. Each lawyer on entering the prison must first obtain the approval of an authority, and even then he can get no further than a private stairway leading to a counsel room on the second floor. Five individual compartments, each with a locked door, line one side of this chamber; and it is in only these compartments that conferences between lawyer and client may take place. Strict care will also be taken to have the prisoner follow the lawyer into his compartment and to have him leave first.

Social Service Bureau.

Carrying out the fundamental idea of the new prison the segregation of first offenders from hardened criminals, a correctional social service bureau will be installed on the first floor for the aid of women and girls arrested for the first time. It is planned to have enough social service workers on duty day and night so that each first offender can be interviewed within one hour after her arrest, instead of after her conviction.

The reception and classification of

prisoners will take place on the second floor. Physicians' and psychiatrists' offices, each insuring privacy, will be located on this floor. There will also be a probation hall with surroundings less forbidding than those of a jail, where first offenders awaiting trial will be questioned.

A chapel seating approximately 300 will be located on the third floor, with a revolving altar so that Catholic, Protestant and Jewish services may be held with equal facility. The remainder of the floor will house the first offenders, many of them within hearing of the organ in the chapel. Instead of in cells the first offenders will be housed in simple rooms. Only the barred windows will be like a prison, and the steel doors which would ordinarily be used will be painted mahogany, according to Mr. Levitan's revised plans.

On the fourth and succeeding floors will be the majority of cells, classified according to cases. The ninth and tenth floors will be used for an emergency hospital. Originally it had been planned to combine a hospital for women prisoners with the House of Detention, but this proposal has been abandoned. Only the emergency cases and those of inmates requiring medical attention, will be treated in the new Jefferson Market building.