MINISTER INSPECTS HOSPITAL

Hopes for the quick expansion of Gosford District were heightened by the visit of the State Minister for Health, Mr. A. H. Jago, to the hospital on Friday.

Mr. Jago was conducted on a tour of the hospital, the new wing and grounds by hospital secretary, Mr. N. R. Boyce, directors and Matron Iris Inskip.

During an informal discussion in the hospital's boardroom prior to his inspection tour, Mr. Jago said: "I would not question the idea that this hospital should be developed to contain 300 beds and be the principal hospital from Sydney to Newcastle".

Mr. Jago had earlier in the morning met a delegation from the Woy Woy Hospital Committee.

He said something should be done in the geriatric field at Woy Woy.

He commented: "These people have no Empire building ideas at all and there are 12 acres of land available there within reasonable reach.

"I am amazed to learn that about 10,000 people residing in Woy Woy district are more than 60-years-of-age."

In reply to other questions, Mr. Jago said:

"Wyong recently had a deputation introduced by the Member for Wyong. Considerable pressure was applied for a hospital in the Wyong district.

"The really big problem in the hospital field is wages and salaries.

"It is important to encourage self-help for hospitals in the communities as distinct from State aid."

The Minister added that one fourteenth of the capital expenditure on NSW hospitals this year has been devoted to Gosford Hospital.

CROWDED

Mr. Nev Boyce told the Minister that Gosford District Hospital treated more patients than Albury Base Hospital.

Gosford, only a 65-bed hospital, had 3,600 patients last year compared to Albury's 3,400.

Also Gosford Hospital had more births than at Albury.