GOSFORD DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

Chairman's Report for Financial year ended 30/6/46. Presented to Annual Meeting of Subscribers held in Gosford Municipal Chambers at 2 p.m. on 19/9/46.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year ending 30th June, 1946, marking the first completed year of the Hospital's existence.

Total number of patients treated for the year: 1114
Total number of babies born: 175
Outpatients treated: 861
Number of outpatient attendances: 1391
Major operations performed: 44
Minor operations performed: 362
Daily average of patients: 29.56

On examination I find that we treated patients from every portion of this wide district.

I have, for some time past, been in close contact with the Hospitals Commission, and have pressed the claims for a new Nurses' Home and extension of the Hospital to 100 beds, and am very hopeful that in the near future we will be commencing the first instalment of these plans, by the commencement of a building for a new Nurses' Home, for which an amount of £50,000 has been asked. To complete the present Hospital building to carry 100 beds, the sum of £85,000 has been suggested by the Hospitals Commission as being necessary, and a further sum of £8,000 has been suggested by them as the amount required for a new and modern laundry.

Again I express my confidence in these amounts being found for our future building operations.

Prospective patients have had to be refused admission at times, because of shortage of staff, and also at times because all available beds were occupied.

Twelve auxiliaries are now working for the Hospital, also the Gosford Younger Set. From the auxiliaries the Hospital, during the last twelve months, has received the sum of £344 in cash, as well as numerous articles of equipment and comforts.

I should make special mention of the efforts of the individual auxiliaries:

- Saratoga £60
- Tumbi Umbi - Berkley Vale 30
- Gosford 81
- Empire Bay 37
- Ettalong 45
- Ourimbah 25
- Point Clare-Tascott 25
- Hardy's Bay-Kilcare 10
- Wagstaffe-Pretty Beach 2
- Mrs. Mortimer, Point Clare-Tascott 28

(This effort was made before the formation of the Auxiliary)

To show the continued interest of our Auxiliaries the following sums have been received since the 30th June this year:
The Gosford Younger Set have made excellent advancement in connection with the setting-up of the Hospital library, and also doing great work in handling the installation of wireless for the hospital.

A. and C. Association. £250.
Gosford Buffalo Lodge 50.
Gosford Bowling Club. 50.
Gosford High School pupils. 25.
Coastal Scenic Road League. (per Mr. McLeod) 41.
Peats Ridge Public School pupils 8.
C.W.A., Gosford branch 10.
C.W.A., Erina Vale branch 5.
The Ace Tennis Club Gosford 10.
Stragglers Tennis Club, Gosford 4.
2 G.B. Happiness Club, Woy Woy 15.
2 G.B. Happiness Club, Ettalong 5.
Erina Salvage Committee. 29.

These amounts total approximately £580. The balance of the £683 previously mentioned is made up of numerous smaller donations by generous supporters of the hospital.

The Balance Sheet shows a further amount of £347 received from Entertainments and Sports. In this regard we must pay special tribute to Mr. Harry Mattocks, a member of the Board, through whose generous efforts £316 has been raised by continued entertainments for special purposes.

To all of these bodies and individuals I say "Thank You", and express my sincere appreciation for their efforts, and hope for a continuance of this magnificent work.

It is interesting to compare some of our figures with those of Leeton Hospital which has a daily average of patients about double that of Gosford.

Gosford Auxiliaries £344. Leeton Auxiliaries £177.
" Donations & Subs. 683 " Donations & Subs. 141.

These figures show Gosford in a most favourable light, and when added to the wonderful response last year for the purchase of equipment etc., must make everyone proud to be resident of such a generous and hospital-minded district.

Thanks to Doctors of the District, the Ambulance Service, the Police, Gosford and Woy Woy Municipal Councils, Brisbane Water County Council, Erina Shire Council and the hon. Electrical Staff. Thanks to all who assisted in any way.
I would like to specially mention the Red Cross Blood Bank Service. Blood supplied by this Service has saved many lives, and is always obtainable day or night. Last week a request was sent to them late at night; as usual the blood was placed on the first available train, which in this case was the paper train, arriving here about 3:30 in the morning. All this is done absolutely free of cost to the Hospital.

Thanks also to Matron Knight, her nursing and house-keeping staff, and the maintenance staff, for the splendid work they have done during the year, very often under most difficult conditions.

To the Members of my Board, also, my thanks for their unselfish support.