District nursing service
largest in State

The District Nursing Service operated by the Gosford District Hospital is the largest in N.S.W. outside the Metropolitan area, a total of 19,743 calls being made on patients in the 1963-64 year.

In presenting his annual report, Mr. Matthews said the nursing service was once unique to a few hospitals but had now become State-wide. He added: "Six District Nurses are now attached to this hospital, covering an area from Patonga to Doyalson. Attendance figures at private homes were as follows:

Woy Woy 5553; The Entrance 5164; Wyong 5123; A Riding 3601.

"The Board is appreciative of the tremendous support received from the community towards district nursing funds. "The number of visits of each nurse greatly exceeds the usual number of visits by district nurses elsewhere, and this typifies the zeal and earnestness of the sisters."

Warning

Mr. Matthews sounded a note of warning when he said that extensions to the hospital were urgently required. He added: "A new wing of three floors is to be constructed and this will increase our capacity from 65 to 130 beds. "In the past year, the rapidly increasing population of the Central Coast has thrown a tremendous load on the limited bed capacity of our hospital.

Must be rectified

"The constant strain on the staff and the difficulties confronted from an administrative angle are not good and must be rectified at the earliest possible moment. "Much has been publicly stated concerning the need for the additions but we expect them to commence in the near future."

Other points made by Mr. Matthews in his report were:

- During the year Honorary medical staff had treated public ward patients free of cost and had willingly given their time in training of the nursing staff.
- In addition to normal maintenance subsidy, which totalled £66,019, the Hospitals Commission, on request, had provided £8463 as additional grants.
- In-patients for the year rose from 3183 to 3427. Daily average of occupied beds increased from 59 to 61.
- The overall picture is one of increasing demand on the hospital's services to a point where the need for expansion becomes extremely urgent.
- From the financial point of view, the hospital had a successful year, resulting in a small deficit of £104.

Proud record

- For the eighteenth year in succession, all candidates at Nursing Graduation examinations were successful, upholding the proud tradition of the hospital of not one failure at final examinations.
- Graduating sisters were: K. J. Beavan, K. M. Pryor, F. Longley, R. V. Brunton, K. J. Gambley, P. Campbell, P. A. Murdoch.

Mr. Matthews concluded: "The expression of goodwill towards the hospital is not only confined to tangible gifts. Throughout the year we are constantly aware of acts of courtesy and assistance which can not be measured in terms of money, but which are greatly valued. "The Board assures all that their thoughtfulness for the hospital is not taken for granted but is indeed greatly appreciated."