SERVICE EXTENDED

With the appointment of an additional nurse, the District Nursing Service supplied by the Gosford District Hospital has been extended.

Sister McKay, of Gormanstown, was appointed this week. She will visit patients at Hunter Valley, the Entrance area, and will cover the area from Point Clare to Patonga. A second district nurse was appointed for this area in 1964.

A district nurse began calling on patients in "A" Riding in Gosford Shire in 1959 and covered the area from Point Clare to Patonga. This nurse will also be on hand when sickness prevents the regular district nurse from carrying out her visits.

The first area served by the District Nursing Service covered The Entrance, Buckingham and Wyong. This nurse started in 1965, and the demand was so great that the hospital board found it necessary to divide the area into two districts in 1959.

In 1969, the District Nursing Service started at Woy Woy, covering the area from Point Clare to Patonga. A second district nurse was appointed for this area in 1964. This nurse will also be on hand when sickness prevents the regular district nurse from carrying out her visits.

The services are available to any sick person, on the recommendation of their doctor, and if necessary, Sister McKay will go as far as Gwandalan.

The estimated cost of each visit is 9s. 6d., but as most patients are pensioners, they are not asked to pay for the visit. The Hospital Commission provides finance for the initial purchase of a vehicle for the nurse, but replacements have to be paid for by the hospital. This takes place every two years, or 25,000 miles.

The hospital auxiliaries in the areas within the Gosford Hospital zone work very hard supporting the work of the district nurses.

During the last financial year, the sum of £1491/3/ was raised by local committees for the District Nursing Service. In addition, many items of equipment, such as wheelchairs, walking frames, and air cushions, were provided for each nurse for use by her patients.

The committees also provide emergency food parcels for destitute and sick patients. Even when the half-million pound extensions to the hospital are in use, the hospital will not be able to admit the large majority of the patients who receive the kind of administration of the district nurses.

The service is available to any sick person, on the recommendation of their own doctor.

He notifies the hospital of the necessity of a visit by the district nurse, who receives her daily instructions from the hospital office.

When the permanent relieving sister is appointed later this month, the district nursing service will become a self-contained unit.

With seven regular sisters now on the staff, and eligible for annual leave, it has been necessary to provide a permanent relief. This nurse will also be on hand when sickness prevents the regular district nurse from carrying out her calls.

Any inquiries regarding this service should be directed through your own doctor, and information will also be gladly supplied by the hospital staff.