

Letters To The Editor

MEDICO'S VIEWS ON HOSPITAL

Sir.—Your readers, despite the headlines in Friday's paper, must have been surprised to learn that the erection of a district hospital had only reached the stage when the Minister proposes to put the necessary amount on the estimates for next year.

The impression given by your article is that the hospital is an accomplished fact, whereas a further stage only has been reached. I know the previous government (U.A.P.) had also reached that stage and whilst we cannot grudge Mr. Finnan all the advertisement he can get out of the hospital question, one should refrain, I think, and especially when our land is in danger of invasion from a ruthless enemy, from giving the impression that the building of the hospital arrangements are finalised.

The need of a suitable hospital is admitted by everyone, and the suggestion to begin with a small building may be a wise one, but the war must be won and everything else is subsidiary.—Yours, etc., James H. Paul.

Friday, March 27, 1942

Letters To The Editor

"WE SHALL HAVE OUR HOSPITAL"

Sir.—In your issue of Tuesday last, I notice a letter signed by one James H. Paul, who, I have been informed is or was the president of the Gosford Branch of the U.A.P., and who I understand also claims the distinction of the title—Doctor.

I deeply resent the cheap insinuation of this correspondent that I am seeking "advertisement out of the hospital question". Your readers will remember my pledge and my Leader's definite promise in Gosford, if Labor was elected as a Government.

Maybe it is upsetting and annoying to James H. Paul, that unlike the parliamentary representation he had grown used to over the years, I and the Government to which I have the honour to belong, insist on carrying out our promises, even after we have been elected.

I have no axe to grind in this matter, personally or otherwise, and I strongly advocate and urge the immediate erection of a well-equipped and up-to-date hospital in Gosford as a wartime necessity and an urgent national need. Even if I had a private reason to oppose the erection of such an institution, I would have sufficient grace to support it as an urgent need of the majority.

Irrespective of the past forty years of broken promises, irrespective of the personal objections of interested individuals, and despite even James H. Paul, we shall have our hospital.

As a member of His Majesty's State Government it has been my constant aim to faithfully serve my constituents no matter to what creed or political belief they belong. This I have done to the best of my ability and will continue to do.

I feel that we should expect everyone irrespective of job or profession, to forget sectional interests at a time when rational men and women of all political parties are devoting their whole energies and thoughts to the war needs, and a Gosford hospital is one of them.—Yours, etc., Frank Finnan.

Letters To The Editor

Sir.—I have no intention of replying to the contents of Mr. Finnan's letter in Friday's paper. The letter was what one would expect from that type of politician.

Surely after many years of service to our community as Shire Councillor, and in other directions, I am entitled to my opinions and the right to express them.

So I reaffirm that, the exigencies of the war permitting, Gosford was due to have its public hospital, no matter which party should be in power, and the arrangements were made before the election.

Should the hospital be built in next financial year, let us give their share of the credit to those who initiated and worked for the hospital fund from the time when Gosford was a mere village. This fund now approximates £6000, I understand.—Yours, etc., James H. Paul.

Doctor Accepts Shire Councillor's Dare To Mount Soapbox

Gosford, Wednesday.

IN a dispute following on shire council criticisms, Cr. J. V. McGee challenged Dr. J. H. Paul to contest the riding at a by-election.

The doctor, a Glasgow University man, now well-to-do in a big local practice, has accepted the challenge on the councillor's conditions—street "soap-box" speeches, and the loser pay expenses.

Local opinion is very sharply divided.