

Growing needs of hospital

"The immediate future is charged with an atmosphere of enthusiasm and anticipation with the opening of the new buildings early in the new year."

.....**Mr. R. G. Matthews, Chairman of the Gosford District Hospital Board, said this at Monday's annual meeting.**

He added: "The Foundation Stone was laid at a ceremony on February 20.

"Since then a major effort has been given to arranging the selection of furniture, equipment and instruments; in devising an organisational pattern for staffing; and in devising a suitable accounting system (decimal currency conversion will occur about the same time).

The real challenge however, lies in the period following occupation.

Typical of the matters requiring solution are:

Recruiting of Medical Superintendent (no easy task); Determining how resident medical officers can be obtained, if at all; Negotiating to ensure Nurses trained at Gosford are acceptable overseas (otherwise trainees are scarce).

Nurses accommodation (a second nurses quarters or flat-ette units is essential); A nurses training school (at present the training school is set up in the garages under the home in primitive conditions); A pathology clinic (a basic ancillary activity to adequate medical/surgical treatment; A pharmacy; A blood bank; A chest clinic; A central sterile department; Resident medical quarters; A physiotherapy unit.

A dental clinic (£10,000 was expended this year on behalf of the Commonwealth Pensioner Medical Service on dentures etc.); Expanded Administrative quarters; Enlarged car parking facilities; Landscaping and new gardens following building despoilation; A kiosk.

New quarters for the X-Ray Department; A central store for food and materials (now

located in various makeshift areas including a garage; Renovation and repair of the main building (which has not been painted for many years; Provision of a new children's ward (already too small and inadequate to meet the young population increase).

Approval for this hospital to expand to 250 beds without delay; Approval to acquire the Army land adjoining the hospital (failure to do this means utter failure to provide for the future); Enlarged operating theatre facilities; Appointment of Specialists in medical classifications essential for the well being of the community; Forging a stronger link between people of this area and their hospital.