

Nurses' accommodation

"strained to the limit"

Accommodation for nursing staff at Gosford District Hospital was strained to the limit, Mr. R. G. Mathews, chairman of the Board, said at the nurses' graduation on Friday night.

He said that 14 nurses were now occupying the old nursing quarters, which were previously empty.

They are the first of a batch being trained for the new hospital where staff will be doubled.

At the end of the year a further 20 will be recruited and "We don't know where we will put them," he said.

Mr. Mathews said that the hospital authorities would have to canvass the community for a motel, guest house, or lease of two or three cottages in which to instal the senior nursing staff.

It is essential to begin training extra groups of staff and

accommodation will have to be within a few miles of the hospital, he said.

He said that the proposed building plan was taking shape but that the £500,000 provided was not nearly enough.

Limitations

"We need another nurses' home which would cost £50,000," he said.

A cottage for a medical superintendent is to be built on the Beane Street frontage.

The hospital authorities have endeavoured to obtain army land adjacent to the present hospital grounds.

The site limitations for future expansion are already obvious, said Mr. Mathews.

The army land is worth £12,000 but so far efforts to secure it have been unsuccessful.

Every effort will be made to obtain money through the usual channels but in the long run, if it is unavailable we may need to go to the community, he said.

Holiday Home

A grant of Crown land has been secured at Bateau Bay for a nurses' holiday home.

Over the years it is hoped to raise funds to establish some sort of holiday unit to give nurses respite from their duties.

It is possible that in time this might become a rest centre for nurses from other districts also he concluded.