

## STATE-WIDE NEWS

# Patients Owe £25,000 To Gosford Hospital

**GOSFORD, Tuesday.**—The Gosford District Hospital Board had decided to take immediate action against former patients who owe the hospital £25,000.

The board chairman, Mr R. G. Matthews, said today the debt had accumulated over the last four years.

He said every effort had been made to collect the money, but a large number of people were attempting to abscond from their responsibility and were making no effort to pay.

In the last 12 months more than 2,000 reminders had been sent out to people who owed money.

Mr Matthews said that between 300 and 400 sum-

monses would be issued immediately to former patients who had received three or more reminders to pay.

Mr Matthews said the hospital was most sympathetic to people experiencing financial difficulties, and in some cases extensions of time would be granted if the circumstances were strong enough.

He said the board had employed the services of a full-time fees collection clerk, and it would be his responsibility to follow up the accounts and issue the summonses.

Mr Matthews said the board regretted having to issue the summonses, but had no alternative because of the increase in bad debts.