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 ancilliary 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 despoliation; 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."