

★ EVERY MAN A "KIWI".
WORKS SERVICE ENGINEERS IN ACTION.

SPEED and efficiency are the dominant factors with the UNIT now under way on a job where Sunday and Monday merge into one; where the dawn breaks on a scene of screaming saws, an orchestra of hammering, clanking machinery and rattle of trucks. * * * THE job is a hospital -- not just a make-shift that can be bunged up jerryfashion; not merely a place in which beds can be made up, a few hand basins poked in a corner in some outhouse. * * * THIS will be a series of buildings incorporating all the aids which medical science and surgery would require in in some of the finest hospitals in the world. to construct such buildings under tropical conditions gives rise to problems that tax the ingenuity of designer, engineer and builder.

ADVANCE parties of surveyors moved into the mauli wilderness, to plot and plan; they were followed by a team of bulldozers, graders and drain digging machines, to scoop out of the hillside terraces for ward sites, for administrative blocks, for camp sites and all the incidental buildings to be erected. the drain digging closely followed the bulldozers and graders. the terraces made, then comes the "template" and pegs mark the spot where men and machines are soon digging and preparing for piles; a group specialising in setting piles move in, and when they move on to the next site they are followed by carpenters who do the floors, who in turn give way to groups doing walls, and finally comes the detail doing roof and roofings, doors, windows, netting and other accessories are added by other details so that there comes into existence almost complete wards in a matter, not of weeks, but of days. the application of Kaiser principles in handling prefabricated sections constructed in New Zealand has been applied with a thoroughness and efficiency that has made onlookers realise what N.Z.'ers can do when they get down to a job. * * * TO construction problems must be added those of sanitation which, in conditions presented by New Caledonian climate, makes attention to the smallest detail a matter of vital importance. a drainage system had to be worked out in conformity with local conditions; from the blue print it had to become a practical and effective undertaking. to drainage must be added a roading system that fits in with the requirements of this miniature village in the process of creation. to sanitation, roads must be added a water supply and lighting system not only adequate for wards, operating theatres, x-ray, optical and dental, but also for administrative personnel. and it must be remembered that the latter includes such as registration, postal, pay, records and discharge offices. * * * FROM medical, surgical and administrative one moves to recreational facilities. here too one is impressed by the thoroughness with which this aspect has been planned to meet the requirements of patients and staff. the site chosen for the hospital is situated in one of the loveliest spots on the island; placed on the side of the valley the terraced formation overlooks the whole valley. (continued on next page)

