



The Dawson St gates to the Barrett St Hospital in New Plymouth will stand open for possibly the last time tomorrow, before their permanent closure on Saturday.

Last Swing For Gates

After more than half a century of use the Dawson St gates to the Barrett St Hospital in New Plymouth will be closed on Saturday.

The 64-year-old entrance gates and brick wall in Dawson St were built after a successful public appeal for hospital extension funds in 1909.

Records mark only the building of the gates, but Dawson St has probably provided the main access to the hospital throughout its 105-year history.

Last month the Taranaki Hospital Board decided to close the gates for three months from December on a trial basis, with a view to permanent closure to all vehicular traffic.

The hospital has other vehicle entrances on Barrett St by the nurses' home, and on Morley St by the ambulance bay.

Because none of the three entrances have been fully used since the transfer of most hos-

pital services to Base Hospital at Westown the board considered closing the Dawson St gates. This entrance carries one-way only traffic into the hospital grounds.

Mr A. J. Regan, secretary of the board, said yesterday that the sealed road through the hospital gardens will remain to provide access to a hospital house by the gates.

Pedestrians will still have access through the gardens from a small gate in Fulford St.

Sergeant A. K. Payne, for the Ministry of Transport, in New Plymouth, said the volume of traffic using the gates was not as heavy since the opening of the Base Hospital.

The only time the entrance was a traffic problem was when Frankley Rd - Dawson St was carrying a large traffic flow from sports functions, as hospital-bound traffic would have to cut through this.