

CONFERENCE IN HOSPITAL SCHEME CALL

The Director of Gosford Hospital (Mr. R. Tyacke) told the East Zone Regional Conference of the Hospitals Association of N.S.W. that it was time for a national hospital scheme.

Mr. Tyacke was speaking at the conference at Western Suburbs Hospital on Saturday.

He said the rising costs of hospital and medical services represented one of the great social and political issues confronting the Australian community and that the introduction of a national hospital scheme was important.

He moved that the Hospitals Association of N.S.W. take the lead in a campaign to introduce a national scheme and prepare a report on the costs of such a campaign, the report to be completed six weeks before the annual conference.

Smallpox report

His motion, seconded by Mrs. M. Westawellar, a board member of Gosford Hospital, was carried.

More than 30 officers from hospitals in the east zone attended the conference.

Western Suburbs Hospital delegate (Mr. H. Sheedy) moved that the Minister for Health (Mr. Jago) be asked to report on what precautions were being taken to prevent the introduction of smallpox into Australia.

Mr. Sheedy said he believed every precaution was taken, but there appeared to be more cases than would be expected.

His motion was carried unanimously.

Cessnock Hospital officials, Messrs. Bates and Scanlon, moved that representations be made to the N.S.W. Nurses' Registration Board for further decentralisation of centres for nurses sitting for their final examinations.

Awards

Mr. Bates said it would be much better if nurses sat for examinations at their own hospitals.

He said it was costing money to have nurses stay in examination centres for the two-day courses when they would be more at home in their own hospitals.

The President of the Hospitals' Association (Mr. D.

O'Connor) told the conference the hospitals' executive was spending a lot of time and money on awards. Groups were travelling through hospitals gathering information and a lot of time was spent in legal matters.