

(D. J. Harprowe)
N.S.W. Health Dept

Home Hut
Native Flora Reserve
Alice Springs
Sept 2nd 1959

Dear Hungari (John Harprowe)

I am not sure, but I think you owe me a letter, not I you? ^{whether that is so or not} But I want you to do something - if you can - by influencing Dr. Webb (if that is how it should be done?) in regard to something extremely harmful to the patients in the Native Wards, Alice Springs Hospital.

I think it is disgraceful.

And to those who like the full-bloods - intolerable, too!

It is that in the Native wards, two Italian wardsmen are employed.

I was down there this afternoon + while I waited to see Mr. O'Keefe (a native man) one of the Italian's

2. Came along to the women's end of the ward. As he passed me he said "Hullo!!" (in a most familiar way.)

If he would do that to me - you can guess at his familiarity with the women-patients!

Lower-class Italians are: -

- (1) Immoral
- (2) Wine drinkers (+ consequently likely "suppliers" on commission)
- (3) Dirty + unhygienic
- (4) + lazy.

I only saw one (of the two) + I would not have employed him as an "odd job" gardener!! And he is in contact with sick people.

And yet he is at large among sick (~~and not so sick!~~) full-blood women!!! (following)

"This is" off the record". Don't repeat that she said it. - But you can say "I understand" that Mrs. ("Sister") O'Defe is indignant + disgusted too. (I could tell she was - the way she spoke to him. - After I had told

3. him "not to dare speak to me" —
adding "I don't know you + don't
want to? Don't speak to people you
do not know" or "I'll report you."

mad? Has the Health Dept gone
Employing low class foreigners
in contact with sick aborigines looks
like it. ^(Health Dept) Is it their way of "assimilating"
them?? — At the lowest possible
level — (of character; manner; hygiene
& language ????)

I shall find out, too, if the Ambu-
lance men are Italians too? (I
believe they are. And if so, another
disgrace. Italians are notoriously
dirty & immoral.
Is Webb an R.C.?

Is that why Italians are employed?
And "French" (Poles, Swis, Austrian etc.)
nuns — Also in the Native Ward!!!

We, fast, seem to be becoming a
satellite of the Vatican & Washington!
(more or less the same thing!!!)

4. What are you doing now? ^{And where?} I never see your name (unlike Tippetts!!!) in the papers. Or even where you are. Are you still in charge of papers? While the 'flu worry was on up north - I did not ^{want to} worry you with a letter ^{now?}

But I should like to have a "report" of what you are doing, (2) whether a Roman Catholic nurse has "caught" you yet? (3) when you are going to visit the Wailbri (time)?

Please let me know, soon, if you can do anything to prevent the employment of foreigners - (especially small Italian) in the native wards (as wardmen & wardmaids) - They should be (white) Australians.

But the whole situation is ROTTEN in regard to n.v. full-bloods - under Geise & Hasluck (most of the others in welfare - including Evans.)

What are your comments on the

45 "Gladys" & Daily newspapers
rubbish. (I think she will find someone who will
And now MORE dress!!!
And now Burdwood!!!)

It is purely political (& extremely sordid)
I think - the whole thing.

Do you know Bowditch?

(I mean more than "slightly"? Is he
still married to the (ex-prostitute)
(aboriginally) mixed-blood girl, he married down
here?

I am told he is "an open Commun-
-ist" & "owns the Darwin News" -
himself. How much of that is true?

(She may be behind the "Gladys"
rubbish!!!)

"Dick" Ward & Brennan
(Tiger) are two more enemies of
the full-bloods: - doing them un-
-told harm (for political ends - like
Bowditch is)

It has just occurred to me
that you may be at the Perth
Science Congress (Med. Section) if
so, did you hear Hasluck? (I was
told he was to address the Anthropo-
Section.)

Do tell me all the "black-
-fellows" news you can, - when you
reply (about Italian's in "native wards")

Best wishes / Yours Sincerely Olive-ll. Smith

Mr. Marsh was
pleased with the way
the trees I had planted
had grown - when he
was down.

Have you heard from

Mr. Barclay?

I do hope he is enjoying
his trip (& Mr. Barclay
too - whom I have not
met) & that his health
has benefited.
(He has been a good
friend to me.)
& I like him.)

MAIL
PAR AVION

Entirely
personal
(+ non-professional)

PLEASE
BEFORE
BEFORE

AUSTRALIA
7d



Dr. John Hargrave
c/o Health Dept.
Darwin N.T.

9.59

(Please forward to him
if not in Darwin)