

PRESENTATION OF GIFT OF FOOD FROM AUSTRALIA TO ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL

ON MONDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1946.

PROGRAMME

11 o'clock

Ceremonial Presentation in the Central Hall
of St. Thomas' Hospital by the
Honourable Norman Martin,
Agent General for Victoria, Australia,
to a patient of the Hospital
of twelve cases of foodstuffs, a gift
from the people of Australia to the
people of Britain.

The Governors of St. Thomas' Hospital will be represented by:-

Mr. R. Pelham Borley	-	Clerk of the Governors.
Miss M.J. Smyth	-	Matron,
Mr. L.C. Tricker, M.B.E.	-	Steward.
Miss J. Inkster	-	Catering Superintendent.
and Mr. W.A.A. Pearson	-	Assistant Secretary.

NOTES
IN CONNECTION WITH
CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION OF GIFT OF FOOD FROM AUSTRALIA.

10.45 a.m. Coffee will be served in Assistant Secretary's Office.

10.55 a.m. Assemble in the Central Hall.

The Hon. Norman Martin and his party on the left of the table on which the cases of foodstuffs are displayed. The Clerk of the Governors, Matron and all Hospital representatives, including the patients, on the right of the table.

11.00 a.m. When all are in their places, a Storeman will wrench open one of the cases, and hand two or three tins of jam to the Hon. Norman Martin who will present them on behalf of the people of Australia to a representative of the patients of St. Thomas' Hospital.

The patient will pass the tins of jam to Miss Inkster, the Catering Superintendent.

A reply to the Hon. Norman Martin, on behalf of St. Thomas' Hospital will be made by Matron.

After the Ceremony a film will be made showing a portion of the foodstuffs being prepared in the Kitchens, and later being served to a small patient in Charity Ward.

The Hon. Norman Martin will visit the Kitchens of the Hospital and one of the Wards.

Notes for the Press
in connection with
Ceremonial Presentation of Gift of Food from Australia

--oOoOe--

The gift of food consists of

4	boxes	Sultanas
2	boxes	Dripping
1	box	Stewed Steak
2	boxes	Jam
1	box	Honey
1	box	Camp-pie
1	box	Soap

--oOoOe--

Hospitals share with the housewife her food difficulties. There is no special benevolence that ensures supplies for the sick in Hospital when food is scarce in the shops. Hospital food is rationed like that of the rest of the community and they shop in the open market like everyone else. Therefore gifts of food beyond the ration, such as this, are extremely welcome.

As patients get well and recover their appetite it is no easy task to ensure that they get all they want, let alone the extra which is required to restore their strength. Pastry and fried foods, always popular, are particularly hard to provide because of the fat shortage. The limited supply of meats and jams is felt severely. Extra supplies of the latter make a little more variety possible.

It is especially difficult to make up diabetic diets with the little fruit available.

These few examples of the daily headaches of the Catering Staff, to whose excellent achievements in face of almost insuperable odds (not only food scarcity but shortages of staff too) both patients and Medical and Nursing Staff pay frequent tribute; may give some idea of the appreciation felt by the Hospital for gifts like these.

St. Thomas' do indeed say "Thank you people of Australia ! "

Other problems of St. Thomas'

Most bombed Hospital in England, a third of the Hospital buildings are still unuseable. All the departments are open and as busy as ever but half the work has to be done in temporary quarters 40 miles away in Surrey.

Gradually more beds are being opened in London where the pre-war 602 was reduced at one period of the Blitz to less than 12. At present there are 210 beds open in London, the remaining 335 at St. Thomas', Hydestile, in Surrey.



E. G. SAUNDERS, J.P., L.C.C.
MAYOR

TELEPHONE: RODNEY 2450

Mayor's Parlour
Town Hall
Southwark, S.E.17

7th February, 1946

Dear Sir or Madam,

re: GIFTS OF FOOD FROM VICTORIA,
AUSTRALIA

With reference to your application for one of the above Gifts, I shall be glad if you will kindly call on me here on

MONDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY AT

3:15 pm

Please bring your Identity Card and this letter with you and if you are in receipt of a pension please bring your pension book also.

If you have any young children you should also bring all their Identity Cards.

Yours truly,

(Sgnd.)

E.G. SAUNDERS

Mayor of Southwark