

PC 1/1/7/27/3

MRS: HOERNLE:

JOHANNESBURG:

7.X.51



Prof. Hoernle was at Durham and came out to SA for the long vacation in 1921. He was very interested in the Stibble ~~affair~~ affair, being for one thing interested in University affairs, and for another, interested in the administratorship of his ex-pupil, Hoffie. The only part that Prof H. ever took in the Stibble ~~affair~~ affair was to express the opinion that H. had no right to interfere in the private affairs of a Professor. (To this Mrs. Hoernle adds with admirable objectivity that she did not agree with this view). Macmurray left Wits at the end of 1922. Prof. H. took over from McM at the beginning of 1923. At the end of 1923, H. was made Administrator. He was then on the Council and opposed the suggestion that Hoernle should be made Principal. That was the beginning of the rift between the Hoernles and H. Mrs. Hoernle heard that H. said, "I never forget, and I never forgive." But she only heard this. It was a blow to Hoernle not to become Principal.

Mrs. Hoernle went to Pretoria about a week before H. died to meet H. on some matter which she does not now recollect. They met at Joe Webb's old Church in Pretoria, Joe Webb having also come over to Pta for the occasion. At that time three of H's four last articles had appeared in the STAR. Mrs. H. told him she was not satisfied with his articles and that he had not come out openly enough for justice. Mrs. H. said she would not have spoken like that if she had known he was so ill. H. was hurt and shocked, but he of course knew what was in his fourth article, and Mrs. H. did not, it not having yet appeared. Joe Webb intervened, (maybe he knew) and said, "Let's not keep Mr. H. now."

H. had control over the first buildings at the University. But the Men's Hostel was a mean building with a mean entrance, cheap cutlery and linen; and no heating in any of the buildings at all. After H. left they had to break through every wall and put in the pipes for central heating. There was nothing big - everything was small.

H's relations with Mre. Hoernle were friendly. He asked her to lecture but she was very diffident. He said, "Of course you can do it." She felt he was trying to make up for what he had failed to do for her husband.

He was parsimonious and in no way a great Principal. His treatment of Prof H. was bad. He seemed pleased to see his old Professor when he came out for the long vacation in 1921. He certainly didn't resist Prof. H's coming to succeed McM. But when Prof H came to the Staff, there was no friendliness to him and Mrs. H., perhaps because of the remark H. had made about the Stibble ~~affair~~ affair. In fact this friendliness was shown to very few at the time. He made no effort such as were made at bigger Universities to welcome and know the

MRS HOERNLE: contd:



Staff. (Perhaps the Principal had by now retreated from the Staff, says ASP. H. and his mother did remain friendly with le M and M., probably because they felt they could trust them, but others including Hoernle and Theo despised these people as "crawlers").

(ASP notes also that Mrs. Ho reacted at once when ASP said that for all his faults, Liberals regarded him as their leader; at once she compared H. unfavourably with Ho., but she recovered and said wistfully, "It was very strange that H. should give the first Hoernle Memorial lecture".)