

HOFMEYR'S WILL

Hofmeyr left an estate of over £60,000, nearly two-thirds consisting of mortgage bonds (23 in number), and nearly one-third of Union Government and Municipal stocks. Of mining and industrial shares he had none.

Edgar Brookes and Jan Hendrik Louw testified to having received for the Deo Gratias Fund a sum of £4800, being four-fifths of his Ministerial salary for two years. This amount was handed over to the Jan Hofmeyr School for Social Work, which received in all a sum of nearly £6000.

Susanne
Hofmeyr left £1500 to his step^esister Aletta Catherina Nethling, and £1500 to his step^esister Susann^e Freemantle, also £500 to his step^esister Hester Sophia Johanna Forbes, which sum would be increased to £1500 if she were a widow at the time of his death. He left £100 to each of his god^echildren, who at the time of the making of the will numbered ten.

He left £5000 to the Students' Christian Association, on condition that it would continue to promote the spiritual welfare of English- and Afrikaans-speaking students, and of white and non-white students. Otherwise the money would go to the University of Cape Town.

He left £10,000 to the University of the Witwatersrand, to be used as the University decided, provided that a Chair in the Department of Classics be given his name.

The balance of the Estate he left to his mother, to be used at her discretion. Hofmeyr however wished her to consider additional provision for his step^esisters, 'such provision as she may think fit' for his elder brother A. B., and £100 for any god^echild not mentioned by name in his will.

He further wished his mother to provide an^d extra £5000 for the University of the Witwatersrand, and £10,000 for the endowment at Fort Hare College of some activity with which his name would be associated.

Mrs. Hofmeyr paid out the latter two sums immediately, also amounts of £100 to each of eight additional godchildren. It was suggested to her that she would be carrying out the spirit of her son's wishes if she withheld the £10,000 from Fort Hare College, which had been purged of 'liberalistic' elements by Dr. Malan's

Government, and placed under the Bantu Affairs Department, a step that Hofmeyr would have strongly resisted. But she refused to do anything but carry out her son's wishes to the letter. I think this decision was predictable. In the first place she was neutralist in politics, and in the second she had seldom or never made such decisions; they had always been made by her son.

After she carried out her son's wishes, she was left with some £28,000. She lived frugally and quietly, and at her death the estate was more or less intact. Half of it was used to establish a J.H. Hofmeyr Scholarship Fund, and the other half was to go to the same fund on the death of A.B. Hofmeyr, who was to enjoy the interest on it for his lifetime. The fund was to be used for scholarships at the University of the Witwatersrand and at Fort Hare, to enable 'South African young men, both European and non-European' to study at these institutions.

Mrs. Hofmeyr also left gifts of furniture and money to her two African servants, one of whom had been with her for 24 years.

After her death £500 was found in a trunk in the house, a sum about which she had apparently forgotten.

She allowed her son's friends to choose mementos from his possessions, but the more precious and historic of these she presented to the Africana museum in Johannesburg. His books and papers she left to the University of the Witwatersrand. The collection was inventoried by the late Mr. Paul Ribbink, but needs drastic weeding out, many of its items being valueless. If history decides to remember Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr, and if this biography helps to that end, the books and papers should be sorted and reassembled as a biographical collection.