

"Aunt Rachel."

AT last the secret is out! The children throughout South Africa—the young and the grown-up—are now to learn of the identity of a writer who for a period of over eighteen years has regularly contributed the "Children's Page" in the *Zionist Record*. She is Mrs. R. Shaer, now the matron of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg.

It is a rare literary achievement indeed to write a feature of this nature consistently for so long a period. Only one who has a great love for children could have coped with it and taken so keen a joy in the task. Many of the pages written by "Aunt Rachel" were little gems of their kind and I trust that the idea for the publication of some of these in book form will materialise. Some of the collected essays would make an attractive book for Jewish children, and would prove a distinctly South African contribution to this form of welcome literature.

Isidore Heymann.

THE only Jew to have been elected by contributors to the Johannesburg Hospital Board is Mr. Isidore Heymann. This action is a well earned tribute to a well known philanthropic worker. For years, Mr. Heymann has remained a vital force behind the scenes of charitable and communal endeavour, and has consistently refused public office. His Presidency of the Jewish Aged Home was practically forced upon him and he accepted office with the greatest reluctance.

The work he has accomplished for such institutions as the Orphanage and the Aged Home is of a monumental nature and very little of it will ever be known in view of the fact that Mr. Heymann runs away from the slightest form of publicity. He sails from Cape Town today, accompanied by his wife, on a well earned trip and the good wishes of the whole of the Jewish community on the Rand go with them on their journey.

"Three Germans."

IN an article in the Johannesburg *Star*, I read the other evening an eulogy of the "A.E.G." which stands for the *Algemeine Electricitats Gesellschaft*. This mighty industrial and business concern in modern Germany, recently celebrated the jubilee of its foundation. Praise is given to "three mighty Berliners," Emil Rathenau, the engineer, Felix Deutsch, the organiser, and Carl Furstenberg, the financier.

No indication is given in the article that all these three great pioneers were Jews. Under the Nazi regime of to-day they would all be disqualified for holding positions of any kind—even that of street sweepers in Berlin or porters of any State-owned railway.

The fact "the three Germans" have passed over the border, may explain, perhaps, the honour with which they are still being greeted in Germany.

Current Communal Comments

By
'Hamabit'

Rhodes and the A.E.G.

NOW that South Africans are quite enthusiastic about Mrs. Sarah Gertrude Millin's well-written *Rhodes*, which has just been published, I desire to record a Cecil Rhodes link with the afore-mentioned gentlemen and their A.E.G. Few realise that Cecil Rhodes was one of the men who soon appreciated the greatness of Emil Rathenau, and no sooner had Rhodesia been occupied than the Berlin industrialist, then the greatest living authority on long-distance transmission, turned to a consideration of the opportunities offered by the Victoria Falls.

Soon after the Boer War he wrote to his friend Carl Furstenberg, the banker, that "the water-power here is probably the greatest source of energy in the world, next to the Niagaga." It was to Rathenau's firm ultimately that the holders of Rhodes's original electric concession turned, and the present Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company may be regarded as a creation of the A.E.G., jointly with Furstenberg's concern, the *Berliner Handels Gesellschaft*.

Practical experience showed that technical science in the early nineteen hundreds was still unable to cope with the sending of current 600 miles to the Rand, though it could do so now. So the present policy of steam-driven stations was adopted and Prof. G. Klingenberg, of the A.E.G., later the designer of Europe's biggest power-house, the Klingenberg Station at Berlin, planned the entire Reef system of the V.F.P.

"Nathaniel Isaacs Road."

I HAVE heard with considerable interest that the road adjacent to the Durban Jewish Club has been named "Nathaniel Isaacs Road." Recently the members of the club met, in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Durban and the members of the Town Council, to honour the memory of this early Jewish pioneer.

It has thus taken almost a century to do justice to Nathaniel Isaacs and to give due recognition to the part he played in the foundation of Durban. Isaacs may be termed Natal's first publicity agent, for in his "Travels," published in 1836, he expressed the hope that his volumes would have the effect of drawing the attention of mercantile men to Natal and that the Government of Great Britain would realise the advantages Natal offered as a port in view of Britain's Indian possessions.

Recognition of the labours of Nathaniel Isaacs in the upbuilding of South Africa did not truly arrive until the publication in 1930 of Mr. Graham Mackeurtan's "Cradle Days of Natal." The author says of Isaacs:—"He was bold, hardy, keen in perception and resourceful in action. He came to Natal a mere boy; he departed almost a stripling, but he left a vivid impress on its nascent years. As time goes on, however, he will come into his own."

Early Sleep.

A LADY correspondent makes a curious request of me. She seeks guidance on the following matter:—

"My daughter insists on staying up late with callers. I have repeatedly warned her that this practice will undermine her health as she has not yet passed the period of adolescence. She contends that so long as she gets the proper amount of sleep, it doesn't matter how late she retires. I have heard that our rabbis made some comment on the necessity of sleeping during the earlier hours of the night. I should like to point the passage out to my daughter. Could you tell me where it can be found?"

In reply, I can only inform my correspondent that our Rabbis wrote in the Midrash (Songs, 3): "Sleep is most agreeable and beneficial in the earlier part of the night."

"A Pretty Goya."

THE paintings of the famous artist Goya are increasing in price at all art sales. The other day a wealthy Jewish manufacturer came to an Art Gallery in Fifth Avenue, New York and promenaded from one picture to another.

Finally, he came upon the picture of a young woman—with the inscription underneath of the painter—Goya.

"I'll take that," he told the dealer.

The dealer was somewhat taken back. The pictures by the more commonly known artists, he had thought, would appeal to the manufacturer. Why had he selected this picture by Goya?

He did not want to ask, but finally the manufacturer as he was leaving, beaming with satisfaction over his purchase, let the secret out himself when he remarked.

"That's just the picture I want. Yes, I always wanted a pretty Goya in my home."

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