There was a Man
The Life and Times of Sir Arnold Theiler K.C.M.G. of Onderstepoort

Thelma Gutsche
The illustrious name of Max Theiler, Nobel laureate in Physiology and Medicine, has tended to overshadow that of his famous father, Sir Arnold Theiler K.C.M.G. who was honoured and respected in scientific circles throughout the world. It is doubtful who did more for the welfare of humanity. This authoritative biography puts the reader in a position to judge.

Emigrating from Switzerland to the Transvaal in 1891 as a qualified veterinary surgeon, Arnold Theiler within weeks completely severed his left hand in a chaff-cutter. His career was apparently ruined but through sheer courage and dogged persistence aided by his wife Emma (who did much of his laboratory work), he became a world-famous veterinary pathologist.

President Paul Kruger gave him his first opportunity and thence onward, Theiler was associated with the outstanding historical, scientific and political personalities of his times – General Louis Botha, Field-Marshal J. C. Smuts, Lord Baden-Powell, the bacteriologists Robert Koch and Sir David Bruce, Lord Milner, Lord Selborne, Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Viscount Bledisloe and countless others. He was both the beneficiary and the victim of South Africa’s ferocious political life and from the Boer War onward, participated in historic events. The world at large prospered from his discoveries and after his death, his Government erected a statue in his honour. Animal husbandry continues to benefit from his work and his dauntless courage and determination continue to inspire his successors.

Drawn from hitherto unavailable sources, this is the first definitive account of his life and reveals the character and achievements of a strange man previously known only vaguely by repute.

Thelma Gutsche, born of South African and English parents, was educated privately and at the University of Cape Town where she majored in Ethics, Logic and Metaphysics, later attaining her Ph.D. in Social History.

Always inclined toward literary expression, she has published a number of biographies (Old Gold, The Microcosm, A Very Smart Medal, The Bishop’s Lady, etc) and was awarded the C.N.A. Prize for Literature for No Ordinary Woman which revealed an unrecorded feature in the history of South Africa.

Her biography of Sir Arnold Theiler spans the world and deals with the scientific contribution of a unique character in the context of contemporary event and the competition of his peers.

DUST JACKET

When Arnold Theiler chopped off his hand, emergent countries rode on the back of draught animals. In that year (1891), 68 oxen were needed to drag a 15-ton boiler along 300 miles of ‘roads’ (pot-holed tracks wandering about the veld) from Natal to a gold-mine in Johannesburg, then only five years old.

There was no transport by railway. Horses, mules, oxen and cattle generally were basic to a country’s development. Theiler revolutionised their care and maintenance which attained increasing importance in the Machine and later Space Age.
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    of Onderstepoort

by

Thelma Gutsche

h.W.

HOWARD TIMMINS
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1979
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Her Royal Highness
PRINCESS ALICE
Countess of Athlone
whose invaluable reminiscence and
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to the completion of this work
By the same Author

NO ORDINARY WOMAN
OLD GOLD
THE MICROCOSM
A VERY SMART MEDAL
THE BISHOP'S LADY

published by Howard Timmins, Cape Town
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