

A RECORD OF THE PROGRESS OF PHARMACY AND ALLIED SCIENCES

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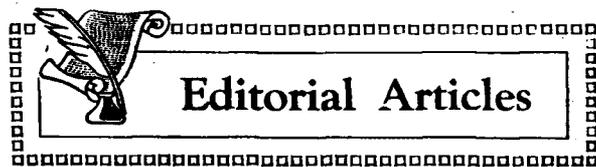
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By order of the Board.

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## Editorial Articles

### A CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHARMACISTS.

Dr. Robert P. Fischelis, editor of the Department of Commercial Interests of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, in a recent article in that journal points out that pharmaceutical practice may be divided into two sections, namely, Professional Practice and Business Practice. The two really go hand in hand, he says, just as business and science must go hand in hand in all other professions if they are to be of value to the human race. A separation of the two sections is not in his opinion likely to take place, nor is it necessary or desirable that it should. For that reason the Continental system of pharmacy is never likely to take root in English-speaking countries.

In a broad sense all men, except idlers, are traders. The artist sells the work of his brush, the teacher sells his store of accumulated knowledge, the physician sells his intimate knowledge of the physical man and his skill to prevent or remove disabilities. The pharmacist likewise is a merchant, whether he sells side lines of a non-pharmaceutical nature or whether he sells his knowledge of dispensing, plus his experience in the preparation of drugs and medicines for the sick. Why should these two functions be dissociated? There is no reason, says Dr. Fischelis, provided the pharmacist is "ethical" in both sections. But he insists that whatever branch of pharmacy is being practised ethical considerations should prevail. Ethical pharmacy is not something to be placed upon a lofty pinnacle, to be admired and not practised. It is an every-day affair. Ethics is "the doctrine of man's duty in respect to himself and the rights of others." Ethical pharmacy is any kind of pharmacy that is conducted fairly and squarely in the interest of both the pharmacist and the public. This is the broad view of the

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question, but it is necessary to apply the definition more specifically to the pharmacist himself and his relations with other men before a clear understanding of the principles involved can be arrived at.

Some little time ago Mr. Henry P. Hynson drafted a code of ethics for the guidance of pharmacists who may wish to follow the higher practice of their profession. This code was adopted by some of the American pharmaceutical associations. Adapting it to meet the requirements of Australian conditions, it may be paraphrased as follows:—

## 1. Respecting the Pharmacist Himself.

First—He should by study, experimentation, investigation, and practice thoroughly qualify himself to fully meet and competently transact the daily requirements of his vocation.

Second—He should possess a good moral character, and should not be addicted to the improper use of narcotic drugs nor the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants.

Third—He should constantly endeavour to enlarge his store of knowledge; he should, as far as possible, read current pharmaceutical literature; he should encourage all such pharmaceutical organisations as seem to be helpful to the profession, and so deport himself so as not to detract from the dignity and honour of his calling.

Fourth—He should accept and comply with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia, carefully observe the laws governing his profession, and exercise a proper discrimination between those proprietary preparations which may be regarded as legitimate adjuncts of pharmacy and those which are fraudulent or are sold for unlawful purposes.

Fifth—By precept and example he should endeavour to inculcate in the minds of his apprentices and assistants a high regard for the honour and prestige of their calling.

## 2. Relations With Wholesalers.

First—He should deal fairly with those from whom he purchases. All goods received in error or excess and all undercharges should be as promptly reported as are shortages and overcharges.

Second—He should endeavour to follow trade regulations and rules, promptly meet obligations, and closely follow all contracts and agreements, whether written or implied.

## 3. Relation With His Fellow-Pharmacist.

First—In this relationship he should "do as he would be done by." He should not make any comment or use any form of advertisement that will reflect upon a member of the profession or discredit the standing of other pharmacists in the minds of either physicians or laymen.

Second—He should not obtain, surreptitiously, or use the private formulae of another, nor should be designedly imitate or use another's preparations, labels, or special forms of advertising.

Third—He should not dispense prescriptions which are sent to him by mistake. Containers with labels of another pharmacist upon them may be filled by him at the request of the purchaser, but he must invariably replace the labels with his own, thereby assuming proper responsibility.

Fourth—He should not, except in cases of extreme urgency, request from another pharmacist a copy of a pre-

scription; the owner of the prescription, being alone entitled to a copy, is the proper person to ask for it.

Fifth—He may borrow merchandise from another pharmacist, provided the practice is reciprocal and equally agreeable to both parties. The better form is to pay for the article at a rate equal to the cost and half the profit usually obtained.

Sixth—He should loyally abide by all agreements entered into by his Society or Association for the benefit of pharmacists generally.

## 4. The Pharmacist's Relations with Physicians.

First—He should not diagnose disease or prescribe for customers, except for minor complaints or in cases of extreme urgency.

Second—Under no circumstances should he substitute one article for another, or one make of article for another, in a doctor's prescription without the consent of the prescriber.

Third—He should refuse to repeat prescriptions or give copies of them when instructed not to do so by the physician.

Fourth—He should not write copies of prescriptions on the containers.

Fifth—Whenever there is a doubt as to the correctness of the physician's prescription or directions he should invariably confer with the physician, in order to avoid possible mistakes or unpleasantness. Alterations in prescriptions should not be made except after some such conference.

Sixth—He should never discuss physicians' prescriptions with customers nor disclose to them their composition.

## 5. Relations With Customers.

First—He should seek to merit the confidence of his customers. This, when obtained, should be jealously guarded and never abused by extortion or misrepresentation.

Second—He should supply products of standard quality only, excepting when something inferior is specified.

Third—He should charge no more than fair, equitable prices for merchandise and prescriptions. The time required for the proper preparation of prescriptions should be duly considered, and paid for.

Fourth—He should regard the health and safety of his customers as of first consideration. He should make no attempt to treat diseases nor strive to sell quack nostrums simply for the sake of pecuniary gain.

Fifth—He should consider the reckless or continue sale of drugs to habitues and the illicit sale of abortifacient medicines to be practices unbecoming to a pharmacist and casting a slur on the general body of pharmacists.

Sixth—By his general conduct he should endeavour to uphold the status and improve the character of his profession in its relation to the public.

The above code is not advanced as being complete, or even free from imperfections. But some such code is seriously wanted. Pharmacists look to their associations to draw up for them rules of practice, which shall be authoritative and may be referred to as occasion requires as the accepted code governing their calling. The rules outlined in this article may well form the basis of discussion. There is no doubt that the adoption of some recognised code of rules for the guidance of pharmacists

throughout Australia would be welcomed. Further, there is every reason to believe that once the lines of proper practice receive official sanction and approval they will be acted upon in the main, and a great step forward will have been taken.

The subject is introduced here because in six months' time the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference will hold its long-deferred meeting. What more suitable task could the Conference assume than to draw up and promulgate a code of ethics for the guidance of Australian pharmacists? It is the most competent body to undertake this duty. It represents the cream of pharmaceutical thought in the Commonwealth and the Dominion of New Zealand, and, moreover, it is a body peculiarly adapted to deal with questions affecting the ethical side of the practice of pharmacy. In the meantime the subject is one that might well engage the thought and attention of individual pharmacists and the various societies affiliated with the Conference.

would necessarily have to be a compromise. It would almost certainly mean that pharmacists would be charged an annual licence fee to cover the cost of administration. The direction in which the move is being engineered cannot be disclosed at present, but the necessity of greater control being exercised over the traffic in habit forming drugs is the stalking horse that is being put forward to hide the real intention of the agitation. Those States that have not adopted anti-narcotic regulations might be advised to consider the wisdom of taking some steps in this direction at an early date. The absence of such restrictions has been adversely reported upon by those officials who are entrusted with the duty of enforcing the Federal opium proclamation.

#### PROFESSIONAL CHEMISTS BILL.

The proposal of the Australian Chemical Institute to approach the Federal Convention with a view of endeavouring to have the Constitution altered so as to permit the Commonwealth Parliament legislating for associations and societies having branches in the different States, was discussed at a conference held in Melbourne on August 18. Professor Masson, president of the Victorian branch of the A.C.I., occupied the chair, and there were representatives present of several professional organisations, including Messrs. A. R. Bailey and C. L. Butchers, delegates from the Pharmaceutical Society. Professor Masson said that there was apparently little chance of securing a Federal charter. The alternative of Federal legislation remained. This meant altering the Constitution. After discussion it was unanimously agreed, on the motion of Mr. Butchers, that the delegates recommend that every effort be made by the different professional organisations to secure a Federal companies law, one clause of which should contain a provision to give scientific and similar bodies not carrying on business for gain a legal status. Professor Masson said it was not the intention of the Institute to seek for powers to specifically legislate for the chemical profession.

#### SALE OF STRYCHNINE.

A pharmacist writes making the following suggestion:— "Strychnine, being such a widely used poison, to be sold exclusively by pharmacists and licensed dealers in poison. Retail sales by wholesale merchants to be strictly prohibited. The Government to fix a fair percentage of profit, and pharmacists to be required to supply at such fixed price." This is a new suggestion. What do pharmacists think of it?

#### MUZZLING THE PHARMACIST.

The advantage of having a pharmacist in a country town where there is no medical man is generally appreciated by local residents. In such cases the position is not always a happy one for the pharmacist. He is frequently asked to render first aid, and sometimes receives an urgent message to attend a serious case of accident or illness. A case in point recently arose in Norseman, W.A. There is no doctor in the town, and the local chemist feels extremely diffident about exercising any functions which are reserved to the medical profession. He stated his case to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society, who sent on the particulars to the Medical Board. The Board replied, referring the chemist to section 23 of the Medical

## The Month

#### PHARMACISTS AND DUTY TO APPRENTICES.

Sir Wm. Glyn-Jones, secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, speaking at the annual dinner of the Devon Pharmaceutical Association, and dealing with the ex-service men problem, said that many of the applications for exemption from the examination made sorry reading. It showed that pharmacists of the past had been too ready to avail themselves of the cheapest form of juvenile employment, without any regard to the future of the boy or whether he was being led into a blind alley or not. In some cases the errand boy had made himself generally useful, and eventually found himself an assistant. Consequently it was little wonder there were so many unqualified men well on in life on the flanks of the qualified men. It was a fatal error to allow the errand boy to drift into the work at the counter and then into the position of the unqualified assistant. To some extent the Pharmaceutical Society and its members were responsible, but the state of affairs was now well on the way to alteration. He was hoping to see better raw material than pharmacists had to work on in years gone by. There could be no greater danger to the profession than having a number of men who, while they could not get their living outside, yet did not qualify within. Sir Wm. Glyn-Jones referred to this subject again at a meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association, and emphasised the importance of closing up the ranks if pharmacy was to progress and maintain its prestige.

#### FEDERAL POISONS LEGISLATION.

A quiet but determined move is being made in Federal circles to ask the proposed Federal Convention to seek powers for the Commonwealth Parliament to pass a Federal Poisons Act. It is very doubtful whether this proposal will be viewed favourably by pharmacists. Conditions vary in the different States, and a uniform Act

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Act 1894, which sets out that no unregistered person may practise as a doctor. This places the pharmacist in an extremely awkward position. He must now refuse to attend medical cases, thus incurring a good deal of illwill. The pharmacist has no desire to pose as a medical man, but he is a competent and experienced man, and probably is quite capable of rendering valuable aid in case of accident or illness. The law, however, says he must not practise medicine, and that being the case he must not treat medical cases, even although no medical man is available.

## APPRENTICESHIP CONDITIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

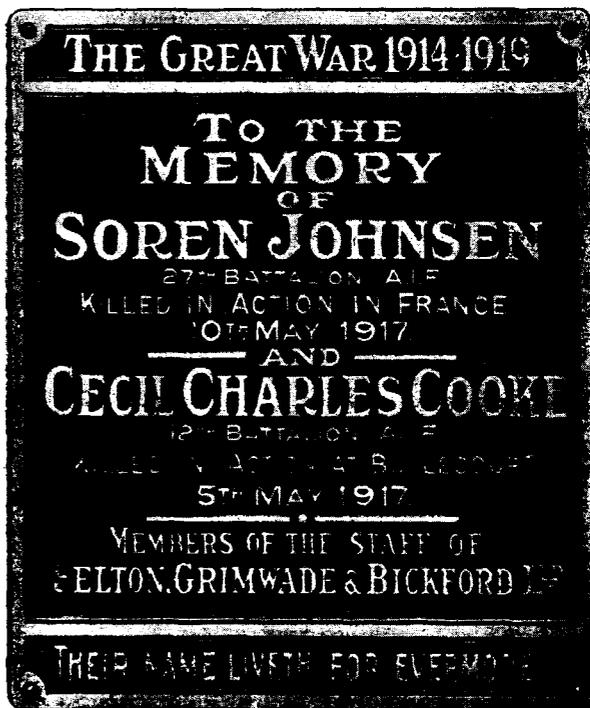
The Board of Trade, a recently constituted official body, is holding an investigation concerning the conditions of apprenticeship in New South Wales. Evidence is being tendered both by representatives of employers' and employees' organisations. The latter are agitating for a new form of apprenticeship, one of the conditions of which shall be the compulsory attendance at day lectures and the payment of the necessary educational fees by the employers. So far the inquiry has been confined to the engineering trade. It is expected that pharmacists will be asked to tender evidence, and some concern is expressed in pharmaceutical circles in New South Wales as to the possible outcome of the Board's investigations. The matter is one that requires careful consideration. So far as New South Wales is concerned the employers are not altogether satisfied with the existing conditions. It is felt, however, that the prescribed term of three years' apprenticeship must be regarded as the minimum time in which a student can learn the essentials of his profession. If more time is to be devoted to technical lectures it should not be taken out of the time now devoted to practical work in the pharmacy. Already earlier closing and limitation of working hours have seriously diminished the time available for this purpose. Indeed, some employers, recognising this, will not accept apprentices for a lesser period than four years. Possibly the investigation may lead to a much needed reform in apprenticeship conditions. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society is preparing evidence to place before the Board of Trade, if necessary, and it may be safely left to that body to do what it considers best in the interests of the craft. Pharmacists in the other States will await the result of the investigation with considerable interest.

## SPIRITS FOR HOSPITALS.

The New South Wales Minister for Health (Mr. McGirr) stated on August 14 that as a result of representations made to the Commonwealth Government the Prime Minister has authorised the delivery of Australian rectified spirit free of duty to public hospitals, in anticipation of the arrangement being approved by Parliament when the tariff item is discussed. This arrangement will result in a material saving to the institutions concerned, some of the larger hospitals benefiting to the extent of several hundreds of pounds. Mr. McGirr added that this concession did not apply to spirit for private hospitals or friendly societies' dispensaries. No reference was made to the request recently made by pharmacists for some concession in the duty chargeable on medicinal spirit, which matter is still under the consideration of the Minister for Customs.

## MEMORIAL TO FALLEN SOLDIERS.

On Friday, July 30th, in the presence of the staff and relatives, Mr. Harold Bickford, of Adelaide, also being present, Brigadier-General Grimwade, C.B., C.M.G., Director of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Bickford Ltd., unveiled a handsome brass memorial tablet erected by the company in their Perth warehouse in honour of two of their members who gave their lives in the Great War. Mr. Wood, the manager of the company, in a few opening remarks, said that every single eligible man on the staff had volunteered for service. They had been able to welcome safely back all but two of those who had gone to the front, but those two, Soren Johnsen and Cecil Charles Cooke, through the fortune of war, would never



return, both having been killed in France in 1917. General Grimwade, in the course of his speech, said that he had commanded Australian troops on the Western Front for a period of two and a half years, and he considered it a privilege to command such fine fellows. He stressed the fact that Western Australia could claim pride of place in sending forward reinforcements and in the conscription vote. In expressing his sympathy with the relatives of the two fallen heroes, the General congratulated Mr. Cooke, a member of the staff, on the fact that his four sons had all gone to the war, and condoled with the family in that two of those sons had made the supreme sacrifice. The General then unveiled the tablet, and said that although we had now defeated our open enemy we had now to look to the hidden enemy of disloyalty in our midst. The ceremony closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

**THE AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL of PHARMACY**

**"The Philistine"**

HIS PAGE.

**THE VITAL NEED FOR BUSINESS TRAINING.**

When I think of the utter lack of business knowledge which I possessed on the completion of my apprenticeship, and when I realise how ignorant I still am in such matters, and how laboriously and in what a haphazard and scrappy manner the little business sense I may possess to-day has been acquired, it makes me wonder that I have made a living at all.

There is a certain phase of our calling which requires definite technical skill and no little scientific training. To that extent we are possibly entitled to regard ourselves as professional men, although personally I am not very much concerned—"A man's a man for a' that."

The fact remains, however, that there are few indeed among us whose net income derived from the dispensing and compounding of prescriptions would be sufficient to provide a reasonable salary for a middle class individual and his family.

Under present day conditions, as existing in this country, we are, and must be, sellers of goods, traders, if we are to carry on, and even in the prosecution of the professional side of our calling we need to have business sense and methods if we are to conduct our affairs in a manner to give us the maximum results.

Something should be done for the pharmacist of the future to help him along the road to sane business. And in doing something for him we may also help ourselves in a marked degree.

Has not the time arrived—in fact, is not the time rotten ripe—for provision of a sane commercial education for students in pharmacy?

In those States which are fortunate enough (and HOW fortunate they are!) to possess their own "College of Pharmacy," it should be a fairly simple matter to draw up and provide a post-graduate course of lectures dealing with business subjects.

I do not suggest for one moment that every pharmacist should be also an accountant, or even a trained book-keeper. The man who wants to make his own clothes, and mend his own boots, and cut his own hair, is going to find life a burden, and likely as not find that he has no time left to earn a living.

I do, however, say this most emphatically, that the young pharmacist should have conveyed to him, or even suggested to him, some idea of—

**General Store System—**

Daily banking of takings, methodical and intelligent recording of goods ordered and received, checking of invoices with such records, method of dealing with returns, promptness in rendering accounts, collection of moneys for goods delivered, etc., etc., etc.

**Pricing of Prescriptions.**

**Necessity of stocktaking,** and how to take it.

**Overhead Expenses—**Averages in regard to same.

**Minimum profit** (on selling price) needed on sundries.

Drawing of cheques, and an understanding of similar documents, such as drafts, P.N.'s, bills of sale, etc.

**Taking advantage** of cash discounts.

**Overdrafts,** meaning of, advantage of in comparison with other accommodation.

**Indents, pitfalls.** How duties are calculated, and how to work out landed costs (perhaps in regard to this item I should have said, how NOT to work out landed costs, as I am credibly informed, and my own inquiries tend to confirm same, that most pharmacists bundle all their charges together, and add that percentage on to invoice cost, irrespective of the bulk of the article concerned).

Enough on that topic. I am merely a humble medium of suggestion, and the details of a very helpful scheme of lectures could be readily drawn up by a few keen business men in the world of pharmacy, acting in conjunction with a fully qualified public accountant, preferably one who had some experience of pharmacists' businesses.

If the powers that be decided to incorporate in some such scheme a definite system of book-keeping for the pharmacist, let it be seen to that such be drawn up by an accountant of ability and standing, and for heaven's sake let us pray that no amateur system, such as outlined at times in our trade press, be adopted, for all or nearly all such disregard the principles of double entry, and therefore are dangerous.

Incorporated with and incidental to a course such as indicated, there certainly should be a series of lectures on those acts of Parliament directly affecting the calling of the pharmacist, and the embryo or newly-fledged pharmacist should be told something of the obligations placed upon him by such enactments and the regulations thereunder.

Quite recently a very intelligent young man, a capable dispenser, and of good general address, too, took a position with some acquaintances of mine, say, Smith and Smithkin. At the end of his first week's service he was asked to fill in his wages book, hours, etc.; he grinned rather feebly, and seemed to regard the affair as a huge joke, and it transpired subsequently that he had never even seen a wages book before.

This young man had served an apprenticeship of three years with a well-known suburban pharmacist, had been associated for nine months with a pharmacist who regards himself as quite the "Creme de la creme" for miles around, and had altogether been with five pharmacists, but hitherto had never seen a wages book.

The same firm of Smith and Smithkin previously came across a fully (accent on the FULLY) qualified assistant, who regarded the weights and measures regulations as bunkum.

This sort of thing is evidence enough of the necessity for the additional lectures which are herein recommended.

And, further still, argument enough in favour of these lectures being made available at the same time for those pharmacists not merely newly fledged, but well feathered, too.

In those States in which there is no College of Pharmacy the course could be provided and conducted under the auspices of a joint committee, gleaned from the various central organisations, acting in conjunction with an

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accountant, preferably with experience of the peculiarities and the infinite pettiness of the pharmacist's business.

Not merely newly qualified pharmacists, but all pharmacists should be welcome at these lectures, and provision should be made for question asking and discussion.

The writer has simply endeavoured to indicate the direction in which efforts should be directed, and does not put forth the list of "subjects" as a suitable complete curriculum by any means.

## The Philistine

### AN AUSTRALIAN PHARMACIST IN THE EAST.

By J. F. Brumby, Ph.C. (Vic.).

Continued from July Issue.

#### Three Weeks in Japan.

We landed at Yokohama in the early part of August, and, after hearing so much of the progress of Japan, were very disappointed in the large cities. There are some very fine buildings, it is true, and many up-to-date shops, as well as many modern conveniences; but these are side by side with relics of the old days. The cities are dirty, and most of the streets are narrow and badly made, the side streets especially being full of dirt and smells, and the population is much too dense for the area. However, there were many scenes of interest. One experience I had is illuminating. In many cases the washerwoman washes out the offices, and then throws the dirty water into the street to lay the dust. I had just set out in a clean white suit when I got portion of the contents of one bucket over me, so I ought to know.

We missed the flowering seasons as we landed in between times. We could well imagine, though, what a fine sight the Ueno Park, in Tokyo, for instance, must be in the cherry season, as there were long avenues of these trees; or when the Wistaria, which drapes the tea-houses, is in full bloom.

When we got rid of the cities, and went into the country, our opinions changed, and we were delighted. In Australia there is nothing to be compared with the lovely country-side, with its vivid shades of greens and its flowers and quaint thatched houses nestling amongst the trees. Truly Japan is a holiday land; but I should not care to live there.

Previous to my arrival I had intended settling there for a time, and studied the Japanese language, having a vocabulary of about 700 words. Beyond helping me to get round whilst there, certainly an advantage, it was of no use to me.

The Japanese people, as far as I could gather, are quite capable of doing everything for themselves, and the foreign overseer is gradually being replaced by trained Japanese experts. Even in our profession a large British firm of chemists has recently been bought up by a Japanese firm. I did not waste much time looking for work. One English chemist offered me a four years' contract, and told me frankly that he did not believe that I would be able to save a penny in the first two years. I declined his offer with thanks.

We spent about three weeks in Japan, and saw the principal cities—Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe and Nagasaki. We also spent a short time among the mountains in the lovely little ancient city of Nikko, a perfect gem. The maple trees there gave promise of being a glorious sight in a few weeks' time. Nikko is noted for its temples and shrines, of which there are a great number. They are wonderfully built of red and black lacquer, with carvings of brass and wood over all, the carvings of beasts and birds being excellent; but, when, the similarity became monotonous.

Situated within short distances of Nikko are lovely valleys, lakes, mountain streams and waterfalls, and it is an ideal spot for a mountain holiday.

One thing that impressed me in Japan was the fact that so many of the smaller country towns had their own electric light and trams, and there are several electric railways.

We boarded a steamer again at Kobe, a city which is rather more modernised than the others named, and passed from thence through the renowned Inland Sea. This is really a strait dotted with islands, which have some extremely picturesque settings, to which was added at the close of day a glorious sunset.

Nagasaki is the scene of shipbuilding activity, and has an up-to-date plant, which goes night and day.

Our ship coaled there in mid-harbour, tugs bringing luges of coal alongside, and the whole operation being performed by hand. It was marvellous, the rapidity with which the whole thing was done. Platforms were fixed on the ship's side at different levels, and on these the workers took their stand, the lower ones passing the baskets of coal to the ones higher up, these again passing higher, the last man emptying the coal into the bunkers, and returning the basket to the barge below in one operation.

The whole thing was in the nature of an endless chain, and it is said that it is quicker than coaling by machinery. Some three dozen large barges were emptied in a very short space of time.

#### Manila Disappointing.

Leaving Nagasaki, we steamed direct for Manila, passing Formosa in the distance on our right, and dodged two typhoons on our way.

The old town of Manila we found to be very quaint, with its old city wall, fortifications, ramparts and moat. The site of the whole town is very flat, and the town is very hot and damp. It is said the Americans are very proud of the improvements they have effected. If they are, it must have been a terrible place before, as it is bad enough now. Here again the narrow streets are dirty, and the shops small and dark.

The American residential section, though flat, is much better. An interesting feature is the great thickness of walls and doors—relics of Spanish wars. Manila harbour is very wide, reminding one in that respect of Port Phillip Bay. Perhaps Manila would improve on further acquaintance; but the two days I spent there were enough for me.

#### Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is north-west from the Philippines, so we steered accordingly. As we approached we could distin-