

Camphor for the Collywobbles: Ship's Surgeon Dr Augustus Florance's voyages 1857-1862

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Dr Florance first came to New Zealand in 1857 where he practised in Wellington for two years before returning to England. He emigrated to Canterbury on board the ship *Mersey* in 1862 and practised in Christchurch until his death in 1879.

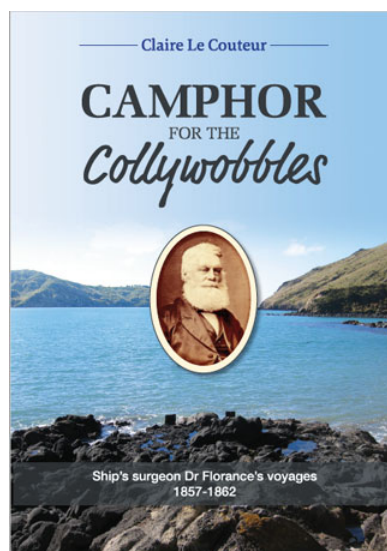
Included in the book are transcripts of two of his medical shipboard diaries that illustrate medical practices of the day, from prescribing castor oil for constipation, camphor and brandy for rheumatism, to opiates for injuries. The *Mersey* diary is especially detailed. A ship's surgeon had many duties, including keeping order on the ship. The transcripts demonstrate many difficult moments on board the ships that Dr Florance had to deal with, as well as interesting observations on the crew and how the ships were run. In quiet times he noted the wildlife he saw and meteorological events that he observed from the ship.

Dr Florance became a well-known identity in Christchurch, active in many organisations, especially in St Albans where he settled. His views on alcohol were very strict at a time when temperance was a strong movement in this country.

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