

THE PASSING OF "GOSSIP."

Mr. Robert McMillan is Dead

The news of the death of Mr. Robert McMillan, widely known throughout Australia as "Gossip," and for many years editor of the Sydney Stock and Station Journal, will be read by many of our readers with sincere regret. He was 81 years of age.

In the early nineties Mr. McMillan, and his devoted wife, who survives him, took an active part in the many reform movements for the betterment of social, industrial, and educational conditions of women in the city. He was a good after dinner speaker and brightened many a social gathering with his clever wit and humor; he it a dinner of commercial travellers, business men, or the country show.

But he always reserved the best in him for his large audience of country readers in his apparently endless chain "Gossip" articles in his paper. He had the capacity for turning a bit of classic history in a prose poem, and by his pen wielded a power of good in not only interesting his readers—especially the younger class—in the best writers of all time, but he taught them to think for themselves. He had, naturally, the thinking habit and ever wished to share it equally with others. In this way he became a source of hope to the old, and an inspiration to the young.

During his best days he played many parts as an active man in the pastoral press, and the organising of the producing interests of this State. He was a real fighter for a cause he believed in and always hit straight out, and hit very hard. Even his opponents admired him for his supreme fearlessness and sincerity, and during the most active period of his long and useful life in the city, country, and abroad, he found time to write many interesting books on travel, science, philosophy and religion. No subject was too difficult for "Gossip" to tackle, and his literary work and charming personality

literary work and charming personality won him many friends in high places.

The funeral took place on Tuesday last and many old friends were present at the little chapel at the Rookwood crematory to bid him a final farewell.

There the service was conducted by

the Rev. John Boardman, who in a short and spirited eulogium said he had known "Gossip" for many years. To the country people, Mr. McMillan was an inspiration, a stimulating force to the young and the good he did could not be expressed in words. In time to come he would be better understood when his good works would follow him.

At the conclusion of the service, Mr. R. M. Pitt, "Gossip's" old friend, went forward and thanked the Rev. gentleman and for his kindly words of praise, which he was sure all present endorsed. And so ended the final farewell and the passing of "Gossip."

Among the numerous friends present were: The Hon. William Brooks, with whom Mr. McMillan had a life-long business association, Dr. Sherwin, Messrs. R. M. Pitt, A. B. S. White, N. A. Gregg, Herbert A. Fry, Ralph Houston, E. A. Scott, C. A. Rudder, C. Barclay Smith, H. R. Thompson (editor "The New Nation"), F. S. Dyer, D. H. Soutar ("Country Life") and Jas. A. Ross ("The Land").