

David Patey MS FRCS 1899-1977 – A pioneering Welsh surgeon

Professor Robert Mansel CBE

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National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

History of Medicine Society of Wales

David Patey was born on the 25th October 1899 in his home at 88, Tillery Street, Abertillery, Monmouthshire. His Father was a railway clerk and when he was 11 years old he attended Llandovery College in Carmarthenshire and left at the age of 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ years to attend the Middlesex Hospital medical school for 1 year before being called up to the Army at the age of 18 years. He then resumed his medical studies and graduated with the gold medal at the MB finals of London University in 1923. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1924 and successively won the Jacksonian prize and the Hunterian Professorship (twice). He achieved his Mastership in Surgery in 1927, and was appointed surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital in 1930. In his consultant career he was renowned as a great teacher in surgery and an innovator in surgical technique, particularly for surgery of the breast and salivary glands. His other major contribution was the establishment of the Surgical Research Society, and he was the inaugural secretary, and later became the President of this premier surgical research body in the UK. He also was elected to be the President of the section of Surgery at the RSM. After a distinguished career at the Middlesex Hospital, he retired in 1964 as Director of Surgical Studies and enjoyed his retirement in Hythe, where he indulged in his love of bird-watching.