

OBITUARY.

DAVID RHYS LEWIS, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Ed.).

David Rhys Lewis was the second consultant dermatologist to be appointed in Wales and, with his death on 6 July 1957, the Principality lost its senior surviving dermatologist.

Born in 1890, Rhys Lewis was Welsh speaking and devoted to his native land. His medical training began at Edinburgh where he qualified in 1920 and was appointed house physician at the Royal Infirmary. His dermatological studies subsequently took him to Vienna and Paris; he was particularly proud of his brief association with Darier to which he was always delighted to refer.

Before proceeding to his higher qualifications, he served a period in general practice near Swansea and early became engrossed in the occupational diseases which he so frequently encountered in the industrial workers. This interest was to lead in later life to his work on the dermatitis produced by radiant heat in tin workers before it was scheduled under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

In 1931 he was appointed visiting physician at Swansea General Hospital with special care of patients with skin diseases. Soon he was able to devote himself entirely to dermatology and became responsible for dermatological patients over a large area of West Wales. In his later years, he found the travelling of great distances somewhat tedious but this did not affect his unflinching cheerfulness.

His social and professional activities in his home town were multifarious and he had been chairman of the Hospital Medical Staff Committee and of the local division of the British Medical Association. When, in 1950, the name of David Rhys Lewis was picked as High Sheriff of Breconshire considerable pleasure was brought to his family and large circle of friends. He held the office with great dignity and charm, his love of tradition and ritual being allowed full rein. Another honour received by him was his election to the Court of Governors of the National Library of Wales.

The distance of Swansea from London prevented him from being a regular attendant at the Royal Society of Medicine although he sometimes combined a visit with the Dermatological Group Meetings of the British Medical Association. The more accessible meetings of the South West of England and Wales Society of Dermatology he rarely missed, and his breezy manner left no doubt as to his enjoyment of both the social and the clinical aspects of these foregatherings.

Shortly before his untimely death he had relinquished his appointment with the Welsh Regional Hospital Board although the prospect of enforced idleness was irksome to him and he had formulated plans for maintaining his dermatological interests.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Rhys Lewis and her daughter, both of whom were regularly seen at dermatological gatherings.

This document is a scanned copy of a printed document. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material.