



Fig. 29 David Wylie

DAVID STORER WYLIE

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David Storer Wylie (Fig. 29) was born in England. He completed his medical course at the Victoria University, Manchester, and graduated with first-class honours in 1898, having won the surgical clinical prize a year earlier. After completing residencies, at Manchester Royal Infirmary, he served as civil surgeon to the South Africa Field Force at the time of the Boer War. Returning from military service, he studied for his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, at Kings College, London, being admitted as a fellow in 1903.

He migrated to New Zealand in 1904 and set up practice in New Plymouth, where he rapidly became known as an outstanding surgeon. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914 he joined the Army Medical Service and travelled overseas with the No. 1 Stationary Hospital. He served in Egypt and, as in the case of other Founders, survived the sinking of the hospital ship *Marquette* in the Mediterranean. After this he spent time in Salonika, and on his return to England was appointed commanding officer of

the Brockenhurst Hospital as a colonel. His ability as a surgeon and as an administrator were rapidly established here, and by virtue of his outstanding services during the period of the war was recognized by being awarded the CMG.

He underwent a course in orthopaedics in London, and in 1918 returned to New Zealand to take charge of the military hospital in the Chalmers wards at Christchurch Hospital. It was here that orthopaedic patients were transferred from hospital ships for their long-term treatment. After his period at Christchurch he spent another year at Trentham Hospital, being discharged then with the rank of colonel. He was also appointed as consultant surgeon in Special Military Surgery to the New Zealand Defence Department.

He joined the Health Department as Inspector of Hospitals, holding this position for 18 months. This entailed visiting all New Zealand hospitals and reporting to the Director-General and the Minister of Health. While in this position he produced the original Registration of Physiotherapists' Act and assisted its passage through the House. In 1923 he recommenced private practice in Palmerston North, where his reputation as a first-class surgeon soon grew, with patients coming from far and wide to consult him. He remained in practice in Palmerston North until his retirement in 1947. He had been honorary visiting surgeon to the Palmerston North Hospital until 1937, then becoming consultant surgeon. It has been said that no one contributed more to the raising of the standard of surgery in the central districts of New Zealand than

D. S. Wylie. He was appointed external examiner in surgery to the Otago Medical School for 5 years — the first surgeon from the provinces to receive this appointment. Demanding the highest standard of patient care, surgical asepsis and devotion to duty, he yet earned the gratitude of all who served under him for the effect he had on their lives and future careers. He was a great teacher and an example to all young doctors and other staff.

D. S. Wylie was one of the Foundation Fellows of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and one of the first members of the New Zealand Committee. The interests of the College were always very close to his heart. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons, which is an honour infrequently bestowed.

He was president of the New Zealand branch of the BMA twice — in 1934 and 1949. He also played a very active part on the Cleary Commission and also on the Barrowclough Hospital Reform Commission. He took a leading part in advocating open hospital staffing as opposed to closed hospitals with no visiting staff.

In his later life failing vision prevented him from pursuing one of his greatest interests, reading. In his active days as a surgeon he had one of the best libraries in the country, and this was not limited to medicine. Due to the devotion of his wife, who read to him daily in his latter years, he managed to keep very much abreast of affairs of the College and the BMA and other events of interest to him, always remaining a vital personality. He died at his home in Tauranga, New Zealand, in September 1965, in his 90th year.