Tributes to Lord Walton of Detchant

John will always be remembered with warmth, huge affection and tremendous gratitude by everyone connected with the charity for his remarkable contribution.

Robert Meadowcroft, Chief Executive, Muscular Dystrophy UK

What a wonderful, wise, warm and generous person he was. He will live on in our memories for a very long time.

Professor Sir Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health), King’s College London

He will be much missed in the Lords where his expertise in matters medical was much admired.

Lord Beecham

I have talked to several of our older residents who knew John when he was Dr Walton, the visiting consultant neurologist to Percy Hedley School in Newcastle who advised on the care and treatment of children with cerebral palsy. Many of our therapists were raised on his textbooks. All remember his advice and wit in word and print. Many years later he didn’t hesitate to launch our appeal with a reception in the House of Lords. We will never see his like again. I am so glad that I had the chance to meet and get to know him and we are all grateful for the difference he made in so many people’s lives.

Des Bustard, Director of Fundraising, The Percy Hedley Foundation

I learned much from John, not medically, but in personal relations, personnel management, and dealing with august bodies like university boards and committees. I had the doubtful distinction of sending him home for his gown in time for his first formal dinner in College: he did not hold that against me!

Professor Jeff Burley, Emeritus Fellow, Green Templeton College

Lord John Walton was first introduced to me by Dean Wilbur Cornell Davison of Duke University during my first year of training at Duke University Medical School. Dean Davison requested that I introduce Lord Walton to all available faculty persons at their offices and I did.

The first faculty person I introduced Lord Walton to was Eugene Stead who was one of the greatest medical professors in the United States and had already had been president of a university. Dean Davison had told Stead that he should not be wasting his time and should be teaching young men and women to be physicians and how to do research and that he would certainly make it possible for him to do this if he would come to Duke University. Of course, he was at Duke University when I started in medical school. I introduced Lord Walton to the rest of Davison’s group of great faculty, including Doctor Otto Gauer from Germany who became probably my greatest teacher of all time. It was my privilege to be taught an extra year of research under Doctor Gauer. In London, when he received the award as the greatest physiologist, I was honoured to be able to sit on his right side that night.
Lord Walton had followed every step of my career. He introduced me to Sir Peter Tizard whose father had been head of Oxford University and had given other great services for his country. When Sir Peter was elected as the first chairman of paediatrics for the British Empire they had invited me to be at Oxford and, of course, I was able to come. Lord Walton had been with me at many places of the world and most likely was responsible for many of my visits to the British Empire and many other countries that my wife and I experienced.

What gave me the greatest pleasure, besides my marriage and a few other things that helped my career, was the great joy that Lord Walton had provided for my intellectual growth, happiness and purpose. He was always there when I would ask for help or advice and was always a dear friend. Many appreciate so much the great effort that Sir John Walton made not only for the people of the British Empire but for the world. He was truly a wonderful man, dear teacher and friend to all I have spoken with who also have benefitted from his experience. It was a treasure to be with him on so many visits to the United Kingdom. All of us who have ever experienced his presence appreciate in some way that he has helped us all to become a better person.

Professor Billy Andrews, Department of Paediatrics, University of Louiseville