



GRADUATION 2008

Presentation speech for Professor Alistair Alcock for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of the University *honoris causa*

Chancellor, Freidrich Engels's *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1844) gives a decidedly unflattering account of Salford:

If anyone takes the trouble to pass through these lanes, and glance through the open doors and windows and cellars, he can convince himself afresh with every step that the workers of Salford live in dwellings in which cleanliness and comfort are impossible ... in such dwellings only a physically degenerate race, robbed of all humanity, degraded, reduced morally and physically to bestiality, could feel comfortable and at home.

I do not know if Salford has changed for the better in the past 150 years or so. Perhaps it has, perhaps it has not. But one thing is certain – it soon will.

Finally there is stage four. After a while the results begin to emerge – better figures, better administra