



CORPORATION
OF LONDON

Inauguration of the new
**Faculty of Conflict and
Catastrophe Medicine**

Apothecaries Hall
11 April 2005
The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor
Alderman Michael Savory

Extract from speech:

It is with considerable pleasure that I have accepted your kind invitation to launch this new Faculty. I wish it and all who will be associated with it all success.

To my mind, this initiative is important for three reasons:

First is that whilst human misery is as old as the species itself, there is a critical need to examine its amelioration afresh. Not just as a medical phenomenon but taking the entire operational *sitz im leben* into account. This is hardly being done elsewhere and I see absolutely no reason why this Faculty should not become a world leader in humanitarian medicine.

Secondly is that you have constructed this Faculty in such a way that practical outcomes are uppermost. I am also pleased to know that you will be working very hard to ensure that what you accomplish is well publicised. In fact it is critical.

Within the United Kingdom, for example, it is generally recognised that it is the statutory authorities who will handle an incident. But what of the human fall out from a catastrophe? By that I mean people. People affected, people streaming away from the epicentre.

Under the new Civil Contingencies Act responsibility for gathering them up, caring for them and disbursing them further back is to be vested not only in the NHS, but in the NGOs, such as the Red Cross and St John Ambulance. This is catastrophe medicine. Are they ready for this role? I wonder. Do they need to learn from the Faculty? Yes.

Thirdly is that there is considerable scope for including other disciplines within the purview of the Faculty including chaplaincy and other healing arts as well as encouraging imaginative logistical and technical advances.

Thus Master in the name of all who will eventually be helped by this marvellous initiative of this splendid Society, I hereby declare the Faculty of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine *up and running*.