

PICK OF THE DAY



Casualty 1909 9pm, BBC1 ★★★

A new series of the heritage version of *Casualty*, set in a London hospital and dramatised, we are told, from original records. It's back to the days when Matron was in charge, Sisters ruled the wards, uniforms were crisply starched, surgeons were gods, and hospital managers were unheard-of. As with the present-day *Casualty*, this is essentially a soap, with clashes and crushes, personal problems (there's even a cocaine-addicted surgeon), nice doctors and nasty ones, and all the familiar stuff of hospital soap. In the opening

episode, an explosion in the East End – the work of revolutionaries? – brings a flood of angry victims, closely followed by detectives. The latter invasion worries Matron Luckes and Chairman Holland, who fear the hospital will become an extension of Scotland Yard. Meanwhile, Sister Russell (Sarah Smart, pictured centre with Dorothy Atkinson as Nurse Granger and Tessa Parr as Probationer Bowers) locks horns with Mr Dean, the surgeon with the cocaine habit. Best line: 'Don't worry, this often happens with anthrax.'