

# Casualty 1909

9.00-10.00 BBC1

★★★★★

This six-part hospital drama proves what we already suspected: bugger all has changed. One hundred years ago, the capital's casualty wards were dealing with drunken, brawling

buffoons. These days, a broken bottle is the weapon of choice, but back in 1909 it

appeared to be slurry, expletive-laden verbal sparring. Hang on!

That's still popular today. Woe is humanity, but at least the medical profession has come on.

This second ep concerns

the use of a new type of spinal anaesthetic which the stoat-like Dr Dean has been using in liberal amounts, resulting in just enough amputations and deaths to alert Nurse Ada. But a nurse questioning the wisdom of a surgeon is not the done thing – cue many a furrowed brow and plenty of intrigue. In the meantime, Charity Wakefield does a fine job as Ethel Bennett, whose ambitions extend beyond nursing to becoming a doctor herself. Tonight she manages an illicit snog with a colleague and the dubious task of staring into the inflamed rectum of a vicar, before setting to work massaging his piles.

Unlucky! *Kim Taylor Bennett*

