

**KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

*Salutes*

**Cassandra Ritter, M.A.**

and

**Mary G. Bure, R.N.**



**SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE BANQUET**

**Topeka, Kansas**

**April 12, 1956**

## SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD

The Kansas Public Health Association has for several years recognized the need and desire to establish an award for long and faithful service on a state or local level to supplement the Crumbine Medal Award, thereby making it possible to show appreciation to a larger number of public health workers. At the 1954 Annual Business Meeting, an amendment to the By-laws of the Association was adopted which created a Committee for Service Recognition. The amendment provided that the individuals selected to receive recognition must be members of the Kansas Public Health Association and must have had at least fifteen years of service in the interest of public health in Kansas, and said service must have been characterized by honesty, integrity, and devotion to duty.

The Kansas Public Health Association recognizes the artistic ability of Mrs. Vernon M. Winkle, who designed the Certificate of Award for this Service Recognition, and expresses its appreciation for her contribution. The Award is presented for the first time at this 1956 Annual Meeting..



CASSANDRA RITTER, M.A.

### CASSANDRA RITTER, M.A.

Cassandra Ritter is a native Kansan. She was born in Iola, Kansas, and received her early training in the Iola schools. She majored in bacteriology at the University of Kansas and was graduated with an A.B. degree in 1921. She did graduate work at the University of Chicago which was credited toward an M.A. degree from the University of Kansas which was awarded in 1928. Miss Ritter later attended the University of Michigan in 1941-42.

Miss Ritter's public health career actually began while she was still an undergraduate at Kansas University. She worked for three years as a part-time assistant in the Water Laboratory. Upon graduation in 1921, she was employed for one year as assistant bacteriologist by the Missouri State Board of Health. The laboratory was located on the campus of the University of Missouri at Columbia. The director was Dr. M. P. Ravenel who was then President of the American Public Health Association and who later became editor of the American Journal of Public Health.

Miss Ritter began her work as bacteriologist with the water laboratory of the Kansas State Board of Health on November 1, 1922, under State Health Officer Dr. S. J. Crumbine.

During these years of service to the people of Kansas, Miss Ritter has made many important contributions to the science of water bacteriology in the interest of public health. From 1935 to 1940 she worked on two cooperative studies of media for water analysis, under the direction of the Standard Methods Committee of the American Public Health Association. These studies were devoted to selective media for the detection and isolation of coliform organisms in water. In addition, she acted as associate referee for studies on the toxicity of dye for bacteria for the Standard Methods Committee on Diagnostic Procedures and Reagents, American Public Health Association.

In 1935 she made an interesting and unusual study of the bacterial content of a Kansas dust storm. In 1937 she investigated the value of thiosulfate-treated bottles for bacterial counts of shipped swimming pool samples. In the late 1940's, with Dr. E. L. Treece, Miss Ritter made an extensive study of the sanitary significance of cocci in swimming pools.

Beginning in 1952, Miss Ritter's laboratory was one of ten in the United States selected by the Standard Methods Committee to make field studies of the membrane filter technic for the examination of water and sewage. The work on this method was completed and a report published in 1954.

Her recent research work includes studies of the viability of *Histoplasma capsulatum* in tap water and the effects of conventional water treatment processes on the removal of this organism, and the comparison of coliform group organisms with enterococci from well waters.

Miss Ritter's 33 years of tenure with the State Board of Health covers the period during which there has been a dramatic reduction in the incidence of typhoid fever and other water-borne diseases in the state. The regular routine analysis of water samples in the laboratory and the development of improved bacteriological techniques by Miss Ritter and her co-workers have played an important role in the substantial progress which has been made in controlling the spread of water-borne disease.

Miss Ritter has worked with six chief engineers of the Division of Sanitation—Albert H. Jewell, Earnest Boyce, Lewis A. Young, Paul D. Haney, Ben Williamson, and Dwight F. Metzler. Her advice and wide experience in bacteriology and limnology have been of great assistance to these men and the other engineers engaged in the state programs of controlling stream pollution and improving public water supplies. She has trained a great many of the water plant operators in Kansas in performing and interpreting bacteriological tests of water by instruction at the Water and Sewage Works Schools.

The Water Works Short Course was the first extension course offered by the University of Kansas. It has been given annually except for short interruptions during the war years.

Miss Ritter has been elected to the following honorary societies: Sigma Xi; Sigma Pi (girls chemistry); and Phi Sigma (biological research).

She is a member of the Society of American Bacteriologists, the Kansas Academy of Science, the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, and the Kansas Public Health Association, and is a Fellow in the American Public Health Association.

She has served as Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the Kansas Clinical Laboratory Association and has served on various committees of the Kansas Public Health Association and the American Society of Bacteriologists.

In non-professional activities she has served as Secretary for the American Association of University Women; faculty advisor for Iota Sigma Pi (girls chemistry); and as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President of the Faculty Women's Club.

Miss Ritter has played an active part in public health work in Kansas from 1922 to 1956. Her faithful per-

formance of duty, her research work, and her interest in public health have benefited many persons in Kansas and spared them from disease. The Kansas Public Health Association is happy to give formal recognition at this time to the long and meritorious service which Cassandra Ritter has given to public health work in Kansas.





MARY C. BURE, R.N.

### MARY C. BURE, R.N.

Mrs. Mary C. Bure is a native of Shelby, Iowa. Her family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where she graduated from the Central High School in 1902. Three years later she graduated from the Red Cross Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City.

From the time of her graduation, Mrs. Bure has been interested in public health. She was one of the first industrial nurses in Missouri, serving as industrial nurse for the Montgomery Ward Stores from the time she completed her training until her marriage.

By the time World War I began, Mrs. Bure had three young stepsons and one daughter. In 1918 she received a letter from the Red Cross asking "What are you, as a nurse, going to do for your country?" The family decided that Mrs. Bure should return to work and her mother, Mrs. Dodt, would care for the children. From 1918 to 1920, Mrs. Bure was a staff nurse for the Kansas City, Kansas, Visiting Nurse Association. From 1920 to the fall of 1949, she was the director of this organization, thirty-one years in all.

Mrs. Bure took postgraduate courses in public health nursing at the University of Minnesota, Washington University, Kansas University and at Iowa State University.

During her service in the Visiting Nurse Association she established a student nurse affiliation for under-

graduates, and taught public health nursing in several local hospitals. She also taught Red Cross home nursing classes and served on voluntary blood bank service.

Since the time of her retirement in 1949 she has worked half-time for the Good Will Industries in Kansas City, Missouri, again as an industrial nurse.

Few persons in Kansas have served so many organizations for so many years. From 1922 to 1950, Mrs. Bure was a member of the Board of Directors of the Tuberculosis and Health Association of Kansas City. For seventeen years she held office in the Kansas State Nurses' Association as Treasurer, Vice-President and President, and as a member of the Board of Directors. She was a member of the committee which gathered material for the book "Lamps on the Prairie" which is a history of nursing in Kansas. This story is of Kansas nurses, of the women who served and have served the sick from days when the Sunflower State had no identity, when it was merely a part of the great unexplored Mississippi Basin. For twenty-five years, Mrs. Bure was a member of the Women's Chamber of Commerce in Kansas City, while serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Y.W.C.A. For twenty-eight years, she has been a member of the American Public Health Association, and a member of the Kansas Public Health Association for thirteen years. Mrs. Bure is now serving as treasurer of

District 2, of the K.S.N.A. One of her great contributions has been the encouragement and counsel given to young nurses, urging them to participate and progress in their professional activities, pointing the way to a full well-rounded life in the community. She was given a certificate of recognition for her outstanding contributions to the Kansas State Nurses' Association at its annual convention in 1955.

Mrs. Bure has served her church faithfully for many years, and was a member of the Advisory Council of the Baptist Theological Seminary for three years.

The Bure children are sources of constant pride and joy to their parents. They also have assumed positions of civic responsibility.

Wisdom, modesty, and friendliness, tempered with an Irish sense of humor, characterize Mrs. Bure.

Because of her long and faithful service to Kansas as a leader in public health nursing, this award is richly deserved.

# KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

## 1955-56 Executive Committee

Dwight F. Metzler . . . . . President  
C. Henry Murphy, M.D. . . . . President-elect  
Willard R. Bellinger, D.D.S. . . . . Vice-President  
Thomas R. Hood, M.D. . . . . Past President  
Evelyn Ford . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer

### Members at Large:

Edna Cheney, R.N.  
Virginia Pence

### Sectional Representatives:

Robert H. Riedel, M.D., Health Officers  
Geraldine Newell, R.N., Public Health  
Nursing  
Samuel W. Hoover, Sanitation  
B. W. Tucker, Special Services

\* \* \* \* \*

## Committee for Service Recognition

Dwight F. Metzler  
Robert H. Riedel, M.D.                      Geraldine Newell, R.N.  
Samuel W. Hoover                              B. W. Tucker