

## Pauline Ada Starling (1887 – 1926)

**Ada Starling** was born in Ely, Cambridgeshire in 1887. Ada attended Fir Grove House Ladies School in Godalming, Surrey. She completed her course at Dartford in 1907 and was appointed to the staff of the Girls' Grammar School, Keighley, where she taught for three years. Ada moved to St George's Harpenden for one term and then spent over eight years at the Grey Coat Hospital Westminster. She joined the staff at Dartford College in 1919 and was a member of the BÖU Committee. She was also a member of the Ling Association.

Ada was a much loved member of staff. An obituary, published in the *BÖU Magazine* in 1926, recorded that *she mostly taught gymnastics, holding demonstration classes of children's work, criticising students teaching and coaching net-ball...* Her demonstration, given at the Albert Hall in April 1921 was a great success, despite the general rail strike. Ada was convinced of the importance of netball in schools and her interest secured a place for the game at college, alongside the other games. Her interests were not confined to gymnastics, demonstrations and games, as she started a tradition of organising large Christmas parties for poor children at college.

Ada died in Surrey in 1926, after a very long illness. Her death was *described as an immense loss to college*. It is significant that a garden was created in the college grounds in her memory. A stone was etched with the words:

*This garden was made in happy remembrance of Pauline Ada Starling a great teacher and a faithful friend 1887 – 1926.*

In 1928 the Pauline Ada Starling Memorial Fund was formed and the first grant was awarded to a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student. See the *BÖU Magazines* for 1926 and 1928 for more information.