



Miss Valerie Halsall

Woman is first to win insurance award

A YOUNG woman insurance executive has scooped her male colleagues by winning one of the top awards in her profession.

Miss Valerie Halsall, a life superintendent with the Insurance Corporation of Ireland (Life) Ltd. is the first person to be honoured with the Hughes Memorial Award.

The award was instituted in 1965 for "particular and outstanding distinction" in completing the Fellowship examination of the Chartered Insurance Institute.

But it has never been bestowed until now because the distinction required was not attained. The award consists of a medal and a monetary prize.

Miss Halsall is only the second woman in the country to become a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute and the first in a life assurance company to achieve this honour.

She was presented with her award by Mr. E. O. Baily, President of the Insurance Institute of Dublin at a reception in the Shelbourne Hotel last night.

Miss Halsall, who was born in Pakistan — her mother was Irish and her father an English marine engineer — entered insurance shortly after leaving school.

"I feel there is plenty of scope for women in insurance but it is up to them to come to the job," she said.