

THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT HONOUR R.N.S. SISTERS.

Sister Haswell and Sister Park of the Registered Nurses Society who have just returned to England after four and a half months' work under the British Red Crescent Society for the Turkish wounded, have had experience of work in Bulgaria as well as Turkey, and have received from the Bulgarian Government a decoration and illuminated diploma in grateful recognition of their services during the war 1912—1913.

They went first of all to Constantinople, and on to San Stefano where for six and a half weeks their work was mostly medical nursing. Then they were ordered to Adrianople, but before they arrived there received instructions to stop at Knajero where there was a great deal of surgical work. There they cared for Turkish prisoners in Bulgaria and though they remained in the employ of the British Red Crescent Society they were lodged and boarded by the Bulgarian Red Cross Society.

On crossing the Danube into Bulgaria from Turkish territory they had quite an exciting experience as they naturally were wearing the Red Crescent and at first they were not permitted to land, but eventually they were allowed to go to an hotel under escort. Besides the usual medical and surgical nursing they saw many cases of typhus, and cholera. These were in Sister Park's care, Sister Haswell being responsible for the operating theatre.

We are able to reproduce the decoration given to the Sisters, the design of which is a red cross on white enamel, on a gilt background, surmounted by a crown, carried out in gilt, red and white. The diploma is on a buff ground, illuminated in red blue and green, most artistically blended, with insets showing a Red Cross worker giving a drink to a wounded soldier, and a hospital with mountains in the background. It also bears the Red Cross seal. Both Sisters have returned home very well, having greatly enjoyed their experience, and the privilege of being able to help the Turkish wounded. They found the Turkish soldiers delightful patients.



DECORATION CONFERRED BY
BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE RESTRICTION OF HOSPITAL POSTS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO REGISTERED NURSES.

A Proclamation by the Hon. N. F. de Waal, K.C.M.G., Administrator of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope, having the force of law, and providing for the establishment, maintenance, and management of public hospitals, and kindred charitable institutions, has been promulgated in the Province, which will have far-reaching consequences to hospitals and also to the nursing profession. It incidentally demonstrates that where Nurses' Registration Acts are in force, not only are the sick protected, but the professional interests of the nurses are safeguarded also.

Under the Ordinance provision is made for the State Aid as well as State Control of hospitals and charitable institutions, medical inspection, the limitation of the higher nursing posts to registered nurses, and the admission of the public to Board Meetings.

Provision is made that within six months from the Ordinance taking effect, every Board shall provide sufficient orderlies, native and coloured ward-maids, or nurses, to perform all menial duties in wards where native or coloured male patients are treated, but nothing is to prevent European nurses from being employed in such wards in supervising the work of these subordinates, or from rendering necessary professional assistance to these patients.

The important provisions affecting nurses are that "No Matron, Sister, Staff Nurse, Head Nurse or Charge Nurse shall hold office after the coming into operation of the Ordinance in connection with any institution unless registered as a trained nurse by the Medical Council of a Province of the Union," and the same provision is made as regards midwives, but the interests of unregistered persons holding office at the commencement of the Ordinance are safeguarded.

It is further provided that Private Hospitals or Nursing Homes available for any medical practitioner, at reasonable charges, and subject to medical inspection, shall be recognised and protected.

We should like to see one addition made to the forward programme in South Africa, *i.e.*, provision for nursing as well as medical inspection.

For the purposes of the Ordinance Hospital Districts are established, with a Board for every District.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)