

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1932.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER AND OXFORD GROUP.

Helps Him to Sell His Goods.

SINCERITY BETTER THAN LIES HE TOLD BEFORE.

Speaking at a luncheon for young business men, held under the auspices of the Oxford Group movement at the Angel Hotel, Sheffield, yesterday, Mr. R. Widdowson said he was formerly neither pious nor respectable; just an ordinary commercial traveller.

Since he met the Group in Wolverhampton about three weeks ago he had changed. He could go into a store and sell his goods. The



GROUP OF SHEFFIELD Public Assistance Committee children in camp at Skegness.

sincerity in his voice conveyed an impression greater than the lies he had told before. In the last two days he had opened four new accounts, a thing he had never done in his life before.

Councillor H. Cunningham, who presided, said: "I was the worst getter-up in Sheffield before I was changed, now I can get up in the morning bright and happy.

"I could pray as hard as anybody in Sheffield when I was in difficulties," he added. "That was the only time prayer appealed to me."

His bills had gone up rather than down, because he was not always charging a fair price, and that was not fair competition.

"There is a greater feeling of comradeship in my office between the staff and myself," he continued. "They are not merely clerks in my office, but brothers of mine. The same thing applies at home. I can now go to my opponents in the City Council and never think for a moment of their political colour until they remind me of it."

Mr. Stephen Copnall, of Liverpool University, an international water polo player, said that formerly he called his bad temper an artistic temperament. Unfortunately his employer suffered from the same complaint as well. He found that he could play better since his life had been changed.

There was a crowded attendance.

Bookie Paid Double.

"A bookie once paid me twice what I had won and I stuck to it. When I became a member of the Oxford Group I realised the dishonesty. I had forgotten the bookie's name and couldn't return the money to him, so I gave the money to a good cause."

This admission was made by Mary Rowlett, of Cairo, at last night's meeting at the Cutlers' Hall last night.

The Master Cutler, Mr. Joseph Ward, welcomed the Group, and others on the platform were the Provost (Dr. A. C. E. Jarvis) and the Rev. P. M. Medcraft, of the Wesleyan Mission.

"A certain friend of mine stopped getting drunk. I was interested in that."

Thus "Chip" Lutman told the gathering how he became acquainted with the Oxford Group.

"One Sunday night I inspected this queer group zoo, as I regarded it then," said Malcolm Ross. "We had heard a great deal about it and a lot we did not believe in at all. This business of sin got our goat sometimes.

Mr. Ross told of the influence the Group had upon him. Because of it he cut sin completely out of his life.

The leader of the meeting, Francis Elliston, said that when he first attended the Group he nestled against a grand piano, looking non-alant and on the defensive. "I wasn't giving anything away."