

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 1933

## The Oxford Group Movement

To the Editor of THE BRITISH WEEKLY.

SIR,—One reads with more than usual interest your published impression of the Oxford Group Movement by the Rev. Harold A. Cockburn, as unlike so many another critic he does not question the fact of God's guidance.

It is indeed a matter open to objection that during these hard times the group should hire the most expensive hotel in a town, but experiment has shown that many a one who will not come to an advertised place of public worship to hear an unconfirmed message of Christian doctrine will come to a meeting-place of publicans and sinners to listen with interest to the truths of Christian experience made manifest by corroborated evidence.

Again the learned minister has slightly missed the point when he infers as the paramount group belief that "all was right because God was guiding this little life or that" in a world where among the other evils he enumerates is that of "rumours of wars coming on the four winds of the seas." Rather is their view, when dealing with evil, that as "belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ," the would-be wagers of war can be "changed," and the even greater menace of the scare-mongers, ever given such a ready hearing, can at long last be abolished by the acceptance of the eternal truth that "perfect love casteth out fear."

Finally, there is one way of realising that there is nothing "lacking in depth in the whole movement." It is by the critic himself making therein "the great confession." Then, and not till then, can be experienced the profundity of this God-sent message which by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit ever challenges the individual to surrender his life to Jesus Christ, and which always brings home that truth so little understood that "strangers" are not folks to beware of, but just neighbours to love.

—Yours sincerely,

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