

HID BEHIND A MASK TILL HE MET GROUP

Detroit Physician Describes
Changes in His Attitude
Toward Life

SATURDAY MEETING

New Members of Oxford Party
Join Gathering in King
Edward.

There were many familiar faces in the audience; there were many strange faces on the platform; and there were many stories of sins told—some strange, but mostly familiar—at the Saturday night meeting of the Oxford Group in the Crystal ballroom of the King Edward hotel.

The familiar faces in the audience were discovered when Dr. Sam Shoemaker, chairman of the group for the evening, asked those who had been to one or more meetings before to raise their hands. Hundreds of hands went up. Dr. Shoemaker welcomed the audience, new and old, and then introduced the members of the Group newly arrived from Montreal, Ottawa and Detroit.

The chairman announced no more public meetings would be held until next Thursday evening, but invited members of the audience to have private chats with any of the group, and entreated one and all to begin their half-hour morning silences right away.

Mrs. John Armistead Wilson of Ottawa was the first speaker. She told of her interest in the League of Nations, the Local Council and other work until she met the Oxford Group. She had thought her life full and satisfying, but association with the Group had shown what a shallow thing it was until she had surrendered her life to Christ.

Had Dual Personality

Mr. and Mrs. B. Hallward spoke to the audience on the real meaning of peace and honesty and were followed by Dr. Frank Sladen of Detroit, director of the Henry Ford hospital, who began his sharing by claiming a dual personality, and being "proud of it."

He had had the bedside personality of the physician and then an entirely different personality which had made him a good sport, generous father and husband. Oh, so he thought. Then he had met the Oxford Group in Detroit and, in the growing realization of his own sin, had realized these masks behind which he was hiding and had obtained a remarkable release.

"My whole family surrendered," he said. "My wife is here with me and my daughter also. We have found new happiness in our home and from that all things are possible under God's guidance."

Mrs. Sladen followed her husband. She had wanted parties and to be considered fast. She was selfish and knew it, so that she had no inner peace, though others thought she was sweet, kind and friendly. Then she had met the group, surrendered, and was now getting the full measure of happiness and peace.

Frau Cramon of Germany, speaking in a quite broken dialect and snapping her fingers when words escaped her, brought chuckles of appreciation from the audience when she told what a clever woman she had thought herself before she met the group.

Solved Her Problems

She had found the answer to all international problems when she had met an Englishwoman who had lost sons and brothers in the war and they had been able to bridge their distrust of each other and pray together.

"She prayed for Germany and I prayed for England," said Frau Cramon.

Mrs. John Bland of New York, a handsome young woman with prematurely white hair, began her lecture by asking the audience: "What was more uncomfortable than a chicken trying to grow inside its own shell?"

"I was trying to grow inside my shell," said Mrs. Bland and not succeeding, very well. Thousands of people are doing the same. When my shell was broken by God I found that the whole world was outside my shell, not inside. The reason some people fight religion is because it breaks the shell of their ego."

Geo. Marjoribanks from Scotland sighed with relief when he told of his surrender to Christ and of his whole new vision of peace in His life.

Admiral Drury-Lowe, C.M.G., said he began to see what a disagreeable person he was after meeting the group. A new life had followed his surrender and he advised his listeners that they would never really know what a beautiful life it was until they had surrendered to God's guidance.