

Impressions of the St. Andrews House Party.

The Editor, *Scots Observer*.

Sir,—It was my privilege to spend one week-end with the Oxford Group at St. Andrews. My first impression was the perfectly natural way in which religious life was expressed by the company. The division between sacred and secular was non-existent.

All the stream of life's activities, personal and national, church and the world, were shown by the testimonies given in the large conferences and smaller groups to flow from the one source—the Spirit of the Living God. The second impression was the perfect fellowship which was experienced in and out the meetings. At my hotel, there were a number attending the house party who were perfect strangers. The leaders present, however, arranged that each day the company at the tables were changed, so that all should know each other. In the corporate quiet hour, the group not only had fellowship in prayer, but most remarkable of all, fellowship in answers which came to prayer. We shared the thoughts of the silence before God and related the guidance received. In the Community Bible

Study Hour, the fellowship was again expressed. Instead of a lecture, we had questions from the leader and the company gave oral answers. In the Witness Meetings, powerful testimonies were given to the life-changing power of God. The group standards (taken from the New Testament, for all the group teaching is based on the Word of God), (1) Absolute Honesty, (2) Absolute Purity, (3) Absolute Unselfishness, (4) Absolute Love; were dealt with at the meetings and the result was a new uplift to us all, a new vision of God, surrender to Christ and a new sense of our obligation towards sharing this experience with others hungering after satisfaction in life.—Yours, etc.,

D. P. THOMSON.

38 Grange Loan, Edinburgh.

10 Stafford Street,
Edinburgh, 1st October, 1932.

The Editor, *Scots Observer*.

Sir,—The Oxford Group House Party at St. Andrews has been a wonderful experience for many, including myself. For ten days, a company of between 500 and 600 from all sections of the community, gathered to hear testimony after testimony from those who have given their lives to

Christ and of what Christ had done for them. If one asks me what impressed me most, I should say that it was the quality of the speaking. There was not the slightest trace of self-consciousness or awkwardness. All spoke with a power and conviction which was most impressive. Many young people nowadays are inclined to associate religion with gloom, but a visit to a meeting of the Oxford Group will show that the key-note of the movement is joy and happiness.

Special services were held each Sunday morning in the beautiful University Chapel. I attended on the first Sunday and I shall never forget the simple but impressive service. The chapel was packed to overflowing—over 500 being present. Testimonies were given from the pulpit by several speakers, including a girl student and a young minister of the Church of Scotland. These testimonies were followed by an eloquent sermon by the Chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford.

The House Party has done much for me and I came away feeling that the five days spent there were a real tonic, both spiritually and physically. May God continue to guide this movement, which has done and is doing such splendid work.—Yours, etc.,

C. J. —

St. Andrews, 30/10/32.