

TEAM WITNESSING

One of the great recoveries which the groups have brought to many Christian people and to many churches is the fact of witnessing. One deacon had been in an office for years and no one knew he had any connection with the church. It became obvious in his life and the office knew how. A bread salesman was notorious for his temper. His mates wanted to know what had happened to it. He was able to tell them. A senior clerk in an insurance office was asked by a junior why she no longer swore when things went wrong. There was a clear opportunity to witness. As one minister put it: "It is possible now to go into our billiards-room and get converted."

The other side of witnessing is its team work which has been a revelation in the variety and drive which a disciplined team may have. The old time emphasis on one man evangelism campaigns is a bugbear to many people. The present day seems to respond to team witness. It is helping large numbers of people to be articulate about their faith, and to say clearly and

simply where and in what way Christ gives them victory, and what He means to them. That, as Dr. Hutton has remarked, is on the "nerve of the New Testament." In a team from a Lancashire church recently there were two school teachers, a commercial traveller, a telephone official, a weaver, a shop assistant, an unemployed man, an accountant and a van driver. Christ had become personal in each one of the situations represented, and the meeting was confronted by a living front of witness.

Team witness has another side in the fellowship and stretching it gives to the team. One man said: "It did more for me than for the meeting." It is said that in Liverpool over a thousand people have been put back into the churches through team witnessing. All over the country teams are going out spreading the infection of the saving power of God in Christ Jesus. A television map of Britain by night would be a revelation of the tracks of these new witnesses to salvation.