

1/17/23

# TIMES

## GROUPS STRESS AID OF RELIGION

### 2d Oxford Gathering Set At Church After Capacity Meeting In Hotel.

A group of young men and women, representing five countries, visitors in the city, Tuesday went quietly about their business of demonstrating and of telling others just what religion is for them. Members of the Oxford Group, they represented a religious movement that has spread throughout the world since its inception twenty-five years ago at Oxford University.

The second of four public meetings was set for 8 o'clock at the Warren Memorial Presbyterian Church. The initial meeting Monday night attracted a crowd that taxed the capacity of the Brown Hotel ballroom. Other meetings were arranged for Wednesday night at the hotel, and Thursday night at the church.

Monday's meeting followed an informal reception, with Bishop Charles E. Woodcock welcoming the group in behalf of Louisville churches. Every seat was taken and standing room crowded by the assembly, which Bishop Woodcock described as "the nearest a united Christianity Louisville has seen." He spoke of "troubled times" and of the "world's feeling that it must get God." The visitors, he said, "have not perfection, but sincerity," and bring "not a new Gospel, but a working Gospel."

Various members of the group then spoke briefly of personal experiences, and of what religion has meant in their lives. The Rev. C. Scoville Wishard, Summit, N. J., presided as leader of the visiting groups.

Among the speakers were two Louisvillians. Dr. Hugh R. Leavell said, "It took me a week of sleepless nights a year ago to decide to get up in this ballroom and talk." He told of the satisfaction that has resulted from his association with the group.

Miss Jean Barker described "these people" as "real, vital and happy. And I wasn't any of these things," she added. "First, I wondered what people would think if I tried to get up and talk as they do. Gradually I realized that I wanted this life more than anything else. It has a purpose, a dare, an abandon that I didn't know before. It makes you think of world problems. If it was accepted universally, there would be no problems."

Other speakers included Miss Mary Richmond, daughter of a British Admiral; Mrs. John Bland, New York, and representatives of various countries, who related similar experiences of their own lives.