

THE OXFORD MOVEMENT.

Impressions at the Women's Meeting.

THERE has been much talk recently about the Oxford Movement, and the missions of the various Teams into the provinces have raised the local interest.

The following impressions were gathered at a meeting for women held yesterday afternoon. It was booked for the drawing-room of the Cutlers' Hall, but when I went in at 10 minutes to three, the only place on which to sit was a table. Now all of us know that the drawing-room is quite big enough for most afternoon meetings, but in this case more and more people came upstairs, and at last it was announced that we should adjourn to the Lower Hall, and this was also exceedingly well filled.

It was very obvious, therefore, that the movement has created much interest in Sheffield.

Looking round the gathering, I saw many people whom I recognised as earnest workers and well known in church or chapel circles. This gave further proof to the fact, which has already been proclaimed, that the Oxford Movement is not to separate people from such work, but to intensify their interest in them.

When all had gathered, the group of women who have come in the Team took their places on the platform. There were about six or eight of them, the majority of them well on the sunny side of thirty.

The leader of the Team on this afternoon was Miss Mary Heard, who is from Edinburgh, although her accent leads one to think that she must have spent some time of her life on the other side of the Atlantic.

THE SPEAKERS.

Miss Heard is a young girl of strong personality, and in her capacity, which was similar to that of a chairman, she made clear and emphatic statements, and her pleasing voice, with her clear enunciation, carried to every part of the hall. She began by telling us that the group was not an organisation. A person became one of the Movement through a quality of life, not through signing on the dotted line. A member was in or out of the Movement according to the quality of their life, or according to how they were leading others.

She explained that there was nothing new in the ideas, that they were all as old as

Christianity, but that the quality that they sought, and the determination to have a greater experience through a personal surrender, made it possible for any ordinary person to do extraordinary things.

It was not a matter of being talented in business or intellect, but in complete obedience to the will of God. The members believed that if they talked over their own personal experience they could bring other people to the same knowledge.

The modern world wants to know how problems can be overcome, and they believe in guidance in the big and the small details of life.

She first called upon a local member, Mrs. Alfred Peters, who spoke of the influence that the Movement had had upon her own home, as well as upon her own life. She said that it made for unity of family, and she warned the mothers present that sometimes the mothers were selfish when they really meant to be unselfish.

Miss Mary Rollatt, who was a Society girl of Cairo, was a very charming person, with a delightful voice and a delightful manner. It was very obvious that she found platform speaking an effort, although she tackled it bravely, and was all the more charming because of her slight hesitancy at times.

"SHARING."

She also spoke of the effect in the family, saying that the small things which caused disturbances in a family can be eliminated by the idea of sharing.

The leader defined the word "sharing," which is much used as a witness of what had been done for a member, and a confession as to where she has fallen short.

An Oxford student, Eleanor Hobb, spoke next. She was an entirely different type from the previous speaker, and she was followed by a teacher of theology from London, whose interest dates from the Birmingham house party.

A Birmingham member was the next speaker, and the last speaker of all was one who is known to the Teams as "Mrs. Chip." She is an elderly woman who was brought into the Movement through the influence of her son, and on this trip is acting as "mother" to the Team.

This is merely a short impression of an interesting afternoon. There can be no doubt of the sincerity of the members of the Oxford Movement. It is certainly a live movement, and one which will attract the younger people greatly.