



Th Oxford Group

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To the Editor, Montreal Herald.

There is much about the Oxford Group Movement that I do not understand; but the following facts were forced upon me:

I was amazed to see the interest which all classes displayed in their spiritual welfare, and in religious teaching and personal testimony. We have misjudged the apparently indifferent man and have forgotten that his "Soul is athirst for God."

They were powerful because they gave sin its place as sin against God, and as an impassable barrier between man and his possession of God and sense of unity with Him. The genuine confession, "Father, I have sinned," is the first condition of homeward return and of forgiveness.

They also emphasised an old truth, but they emphasised it with power, that the life of sin is a life in a strange land far from man's true home. They re-emphasised the fact that the attempt, as old as time, to satisfy the soul by giving the desires all they ask for is failing to-day as disastrously as it has always failed, and that the weariness and the cynicism and the doubt are the soul's protests against its wrong.

There is nothing new in this, but their statement of the truth came warm from the hearts of changed men and women, and, therefore, came with conviction and power.

They told us that God's guidance was real to those whose lives and hearts were attuned to His Spirit. They told us that by sharing spiritual experience we could impart to each other "some spiritual gift" to the end that we may be edified together.

They told us that hours of quietude and contemplation were God's opportunity, and left us sensitive to His presence and guidance.

In all this, they spoke not as men and women with a theory, but as those who had seen the Light and experienced the Power. They impressed me deeply. I believe they have assisted us to get into our preaching and experience a note which has been difficult to sound, and the absence of which has been to our detriment.

E. LESLIE PIDGEON

Tomorrow, the Herald publishes an impression of the Oxford Group, by the Rev. Canon Allan P. Shatford, D.C.L., Rector, St. James the Apostle Church.

The demand for the Herald has been unusual. If you wish copies of previous issues these may be obtained at the Herald Office, Phone, Circulation Department, Lancaster 5181.