

RADIANTLY HAPPY FOLK**OUT ON A GREAT ADVENTURE.**

"There are not so many smiles in your little town as there used to be."

This remark, by a visitor, struck me. There are not, that is self-evident. People are feeling the times.

Striking, therefore, to light on a crowd of radiantly happy folk locally. They exuded happiness. There was happiness in the atmosphere. Life was bubbly with these people. It interested you, and you asked, Why?

Aye, why, in these depressing times, why radiantly happy, so much so that it shines through you, bubbles up out of you?

The people gave their own explanation. They were members of an Oxford Group. The Group needs a little explanation. Out of the college life—having first entered into it—there emerged an unusual and yet dynamic force—the Oxford Group—the Group circulated its influence—and now there are groups up and down the country. This is their basis—

**Absolute Honesty,
Absolute Purity,
Absolute Unselfishness,
Absolute Love.**

That gives you pause! Absolute honesty nowadays—absolute purity—absolute unselfishness!

In giving their explanation the Group used words such as witness, sharing, adventure, love.

An organisation and yet not an organisation—no funds, no headquarters, no paid organisers, no specially appointed preachers, working on faith, an adventure—in faith.

What they told their hearers was their own experience. Christ had found them in reality—before He could do so they had to break down all the conventional barriers and shed the conventional sins, and once the barriers were broken down their lives were changed—they were possessed by Christ. Possession meant sharing, witnessing, and having experienced they were out to share their experience, to witness, to influence, to work.

The method of their telling was unconventional. The message was purely unconventional. The people were of all types, men and women. Young university undergraduates, some training for the ministry; an older type of business men; young women from the college, the professions, from business—a man who had been a strike leader, a character of a man who old in years was young in ideas, young girls out for adventure, young men of the college stamp who had caught the fever ("it is like measles, it is catching," one said)—all these and many others have been sharing this week—witnessing, sharing their experience with others.

This is a new religious force, and people are bound to sit up and take notice—there is such life in it, such striking qualities. There has been an Oxford Group working quietly for some time—it will have many adherents in the future, and, apart from its circle, the influence will work through the churches.

The Congregational Schoolroom at Chesham, Chesham Town Hall, The Playbox Theatre, services in the local churches, all have been used, and the week has been one of intense personal work, without undue display. A most interesting experience to come into contact, with these folk. Many have found it so: the writer found it so.

F.D.H.