
A PARIS LETTER

The Oxford Group

From our Paris Correspondent

The Oxford Group has found its way to Paris, and is making progress. Several small groups exist, French and international. The appeal has been greater to the Protestants and Free Thinkers than to the Roman Catholics. Several French pastors have become fervent supporters of the Group. Of the British clergy, the Rev. Walter Green, of the Embassy Church, has given it most encouragement. He lent his pulpit to the Rev. Geoffrey Allen, Chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford, when he was in Paris, and he has had articles on the good work of the Group in the Parish Magazine.

Several prominent French business men have realised the value of the quality of life which the Group lives, and that the French people, like the rest of the world, is seeking for something stable and strong to hold to is clear. A man hears something of Group work in England, and goes away to think about it; a day or two later he writes, or comes, to ask one of the Group to let him know more about it.

With the Latin habit of reasoning everything out as they have been taught, the Group message is closely examined and thought about before it is accepted. The vaunted *bon sens francais* has to be satisfied, too, but that the people are seeking for something they have not found is not to be doubted. The Church of Rome is aware of this, and were the Group within the Church there is little doubt but that it would be used. As it is, the wide message of the Group, which embraces all sects which take Christ for their leader, is too charitable to be true, they think. Some go so far as to call it childish, when they might say child-like. Three meetings are held in three different places every week and two house parties have been given. Leaders passing through the city are eagerly called on to come to witness to what the Group has done for them and what it is doing in England and in other countries. The difficulty for British and American leaders to give their message is that of language. It is not easy to give a clear Group message in a halting tongue.