

The Oxford Group



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HUMBLING: CHALLENGING; HOPEFUL.

You have asked me for an expression of opinion regarding the Oxford Group movement which has so lately visited our city. In some respects this is easy, and in other respects quite hard.

To put it briefly—it is humbling, challenging, and surcharged with hope from the ministerial angle.

Humbling—to see a Group come into our city with very little advance notice, no theological pretensions, and without any particular backing as we usually understand the term, and by the simple radiance of their lives and the forthrightness of their testimony, change lives which we have left untouched in

study of art in Paris, life in the Latin Quarter.

It had availed nothing. But in the Group she had found people radiantly happy and they could change people's lives. Conversion was all right, but guided people were what were necessary.

After a brief "quiet period" the gathering dispersed.

the main. A word might be added here: only our Heavenly Father knows how much our work may have prepared the ground for the movement. It has been refreshing in our contacts with the leaders of the Group to note their acknowledgment of debt to the churches.

Challenging—because it shows to us a vast field of work which all of us can do, no matter what our scholastic equipment, and no matter what our social position.

Hopeful—because it has been a revelation of the wistful longing of both the masses, and the so-called classes, for deep, human, spiritual truth. No one who saw the eagerness and reverence not only of the vast crowds which thronged the Chateau and the churches wherever the Group was speaking, and the scores who attended the smaller Group meetings, can doubt any more that religion is the most vital, deep-seated longing of man.

The Church has a task and a duty to those who have seen the Vision, to give them work to do, that this great spiritual impetus may not be frittered away. With all my heart I commend the movement, and daily pray God's blessing upon the devoted band. The reflex of their labors is already beginning to show in various avenues of our local church work.

NORMAN RAWSON.