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THE EVENING CITIZEN, OTTAWA,

## The Oxford Group



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### REVIVALS IN PROGRESS

It has been evident for a decade

or more that a revival of vital re-

ligion was on the way. It seems

now that the long desired hour is

striking. Events have moved rapid-

ly of late. The movements of the

Divine Spirit, always at work in

the world, have been revealed

afresh in remarkable ways.

Many are the agencies that have

contributed to the general advance

that is taking place. The theologi-

cal college of Europe, under the in-

fluence of Karl Barth and his

friends; the Kingdom of God move-

ment of Japan, led by Kagawa; the

revivals of India and Africa,

brought about by the work of the

missionaries; and the renewed vigor

of the Salvation Army in Eng-

land, due to the activities of Hugh

Redwood, are all playing their part.

The Oxford Group movement is

one of these many agencies. Grow-

ing out of the needs of our own

generation, it has helped many

people to a discovery of real re-

ligion for the first time in their

lives. Others, through the work of

the Groups, have found a deeper

meaning in the things they have

always taken for granted. The

effectiveness of their work is due

to the fact that they present re-

ligion, not primarily as a system

of doctrine to be believed, but as

an experience to be possessed, a

power to be enjoyed.

One is not particularly impressed

by the large crowds which came to

the meetings. Crowds have a way

of assembling for anything out of

the ordinary. But one is impressed

by the accounts of lives trans-

formed, moral difficulties solved,

personal wrongs made right, and

besetting sins triumphantly con-

quered.

Those who know from experience

the power of the Christian Gospel

are not surprised that such things

should happen. The secret of the

experiences related does not neces-

sarily lie in one's adoption, in all

its details, of the particular "tech-

nique" recommended by the Groups.

The essential conditions, however,

have always been, and always will

be the same. Repentance toward

God and faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ have never failed to work

the miracle. Self-surrender to the

God who has revealed Himself in

Christ, and willingness to be in-

spired by the Divine Spirit, will al-

ways issue in a personal victory

over sin, a "guided" life, and a de-

sire to pass on the blessing to

others.

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