

THE LONDONER'S DIARY

"Who's Who" of the Premier's Private Secretariat—Sir Patrick Hastings
and His Giant Pencil-Holder—Buchmanism in London

A Religious Revival

THERE were many celebrities at the luncheon given by the Oxford Group at the St. Ermins yesterday. I saw the Duchess of Atholl, Commander Locker-Lampson, Lord Buxton and Mr. A. V. Alexander. But there was no top table, although Mrs. Baldwin and Lady Snowden sat close to the chairman.

It was an equality luncheon. Many, unable to find room, stood. The object of the occasion was to draw attention to the group's principles, which may be described briefly as an attempt to relate the lives of modern men and women to the life of Christ.

The Life Changer

Young men and women told moving stories of the effect wrought in their own lives by the rediscovery of the power which lies in Christian principles.

They included several Old Etonians, an ex-secretary of the Oxford Union and a naval commander. There was also Mr. Hofmeyr, an Oxford Rhodes scholar, and Mr. James Watt, a Scottish Communist, who now works as a "life-changer" among ex-convicts and miners.

Mr. Buchman

These young men spoke with an impressive absence of self-consciousness. The leader of them all was a keen-eyed little man in conventional short black coat and grey-striped trousers.

This was Mr. F. Buchman, the former Lutheran minister of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, who founded the Oxford group, and who, in the past ten years, has created a living organisation in countries all over the world.

Mr. Buchman's methods are simple. His organisation costs almost nothing. There are no registered members, no subscriptions. He makes his converts, who go out in groups to change the lives of others.