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ECCLESIASTICAL NEWS

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THE OXFORD GROUP MOVEMENT

DR. DEARMER, preaching at Westminster Abbey yesterday, said that the Oxford Group Movement, as it was being called, had grown up quietly and almost spontaneously; it belonged to other universities and centres as much as to Oxford, and it owed its inception to an American, Dr. Buchman. Already its influence had been great on a younger generation, free from the tendency to cynicism and changeableness in religion which had characterized the post-War decade. So far as one could estimate so new a thing, the Group Movement seemed to a sympathetic observer to be turning to a free and simple religion, which was Christian without laying much stress upon dogma. The practice of seeking for divine guidance in friendly groups seemed to be the way in which the young found it most possible to go forward. Those who had a large experience of university life generally said that there was to-day a great and growing interest in religion and a real hunger for spiritual life, though there was little interest in the Churches. The new Group Movement sought personal religion and was not concerned with institutionalism. If so it would be different from the Oxford Movement of a hundred years ago. But it was avoiding the old mistake of founding a new sect. It included men of all Churches and schools of thought, and should therefore prove a unifying as well as a reforming and constructive influence.