

# Big House Party Of Buchman's Followers Ends

## Hundreds Quit Briarcliff Manor With Instructions for Active Evangelism

### Series May Be Held Here

### 'Sharing' Meetings Proposed for 4 Evenings at Plaza

By a Staff Correspondent

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, N. Y., May 1.

—The last day of the record-breaking house party of the First Century Christian Fellowship was passed at Briarcliff Lodge here today with the leaders of the group concentrating on giving to others intense instructions and advice as to how to carry on after they leave the "God-guided" atmosphere of the meetings and return to their homes, colleges or businesses.

The day was somewhat spoiled for the usual afternoon recreations of the group by the hard rain. There were record crowds at the meetings all day, however, and only late tonight did the group begin to thin out. Virtually all the guests will leave after breakfast tomorrow morning, but some fifty or sixty leaders will stay on for a day or two of intensive prayer.

The foreign members of the party, who came over from England with the Rev. Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, director of the movement, have been invited to various homes in New York this week, following the ten days of strenuous spiritual concentration at the lodge. It is hoped to have a series of "sharing" meetings at the Plaza in New York for four evenings, beginning May 8.

#### Evangelism Urged

Going home and announcing to one's family and friends that one is now "changed," having surrendered completely to God's guidance, is one of the most difficult yet necessary things to do, it was explained at various times during the day. For those who can find no fellowship members in his locality, the practice of "sharing" all parts of their life with some one else becomes impossible, the leaders explained, and the only solution to this problem is for each member to bring about the "surrender" of another person in his town or village and to start a group of his own. Every person of a group should be an "intelligent evangelist."

In the atmosphere of the house party it was easy enough to lead a guided life, but when one comes down "off the mountain," as one leader expressed it, and enters again the prosaic environment, of every-day life, the temptations to return to the old life become greater.

"The test of it is whether it will work at home," was the way Hanford Twitchell, a member of Dr. Buchman's "Inner Circle" expressed it. "The proof of the group pudding is that it does," he added.

As the party drew to a close many members congregated in groups of two or three to do their last "Sharing," or confession, together for some time. Many groups sat in semi-circles in the lobby or anterooms and had their last "Quiet" hours together to receive final guidance from God as to their trips home. One woman, apparently oblivious to the fact that the lobby was filled with Sunday visitors, knelt down beside a large over-stuffed chair.

One of the young members of the house party told how a few years ago he was on his way from Boston to Providence and that he had guidance to go by Worcester, considerably out of the way. When he arrived in Providence he read in the evening newspapers of a train wreck on the other line. One of the leaders was asked if God cared more for this one young man than for the others who were killed and he answered that if they, too, had been close to God they would have been guided not to take the fatal train. The wreck, he said, was caused by somebody's sin. This brought up the question of Divine Omnipotence. The world, it was said, was not treated by God as His machine.

Dr. Buchman's special service at 11 o'clock this morning was not unlike a church service, in that it was opened and closed with hymns and prayers. It was, however, interspersed with several "Quiet" periods. The meeting was planned, Dr. Buchman said, at yesterday's "Quiet" hour of the Fellowship's Family, which consists of about fifty persons, and was, therefore, under "Guidance." Dr. Buchman wondered if it would be possible for a minister in an ordinary church to call in forty or fifty of his laymen and pray over details of the coming Sunday service.

#### Same Solution for All

A feature of the service was a parade of speakers, all representing different walks of life and all coming to the same conclusion about how the troubles of their professions or interests could be solved. They thought that such varied problems as communism, poverty, international relations, war and peace, Wall Street, farm relief, civic corruption, crime and gangsterism could be solved by surrendering to God and being guided by Him.

Jimmy Watts, a young, red-haired Scot and a former Communist, spoke of Communism. Dr. Buchman, introducing him, deplored the fact that the "greatest missionary propaganda" in the world was directed, not by Christians, but by atheists. Carl Vrooman, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under President Wilson, spoke on farm relief; Professor Philip Marshall Brown, of Princeton, on international relations; Sheppard Cornell, broker, on Wall Street, and various other members of the foreign group on problems affecting their countries. Dr. Buchman served as the co-ordinating force between the speakers.

The speeches lacked specification and did not present problems in detail, partly because of limitations of time and partly because to every problem there seemed to be the same, simple solution. The group believes that if the world tomorrow would by some miracle—Dr. Buchman calls it "chain of miracles"—embrace the ideals of the first century Christian fellowship, Utopia would be here on earth. Such a chain of miracles, of course, is only hypothetical, the leaders say, and unrealizable in complete detail. The question is one of comparisons and betterment now, the fellowship believes, rather than for any complete fulfillment.