

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1932.

BUCHMAN ARRIVES FOR 'HOUSE PARTY'

Leader of Religious Movement
Brings 22 Oxford Followers
to Briarcliff Gathering.

400 TAKE PART IN SESSIONS

Bible Study, Discussions of Personal
Problems and Group Meetings
to Continue Until May 2.

The Rev. Frank N. D. Buchman, chief exponent of the religious movement known as "a First Century Christian Fellowship," which, under its more familiar name of "Buchmanism," has been a subject of controversy in this country and abroad for several years, arrived yesterday from Europe aboard the Aquitania with twenty-two members of the so-called "Oxford group" of the movement to attend a house party of the groups at Briarcliff Lodge, Briarcliff Manor, N. Y.

After talking freely to interviewers concerning the object and intentions of the movement, which he founded in this country before the war, the Rev. Dr. Buchman and his followers departed for Briarcliff Lodge, where more than 400 members and friends of the "fellowship" gathered last evening for the first meeting of the house party. The party will continue until May 2 and the intervening time will be devoted in the main to conferences, Bible study and religious instruction.

Today the routine of the house party, which has attracted wide attention among religious and educational leaders and has drawn a considerable part of its guests from the student bodies of Eastern universities, will begin. Following breakfast, there will be a period known as a "quiet time," after which there will be Bible study under the direction of the Rev. Cleveland Hicks. A "meeting on principles" will then follow. The afternoon will be free

for sports. There will be an evening meeting following the dinner hour.

Shoemaker Defines Aims.

In briefly defining the aims of the fellowship, the Rev. Samuel M. Shoemaker Jr., rector of Calvary Church and the leading exponent of "Buchmanism" in America, said last night at Briarcliff Lodge that it is intended "to recapture the spirit and power and joy of the early church; the things that made it a charm over a world surprisingly like ours."

The Rev. Dr. Buchman explained on his arrival here that the movement, which he said has been mistaken for a new cult or creed, is nothing of the sort, but simply an attempt to get back to old truths of Christianity. It is a movement within the churches, he said, supplementing organized worship by personal evangelism.

"At the Briarcliff house party," he continued, "there will be several hundred persons. Of these there will be about thirty 'experts,' of whom some are clergymen and others laymen familiar with the methods of the group. We will sit around naturally and make friends normally."

"Each afternoon there will be talks by the experts. As each one talks, some of the assembly will feel that this is the one with whom he would like to discuss his difficulties and later will converse privately with the speaker."

Buchman's Companions.

The members of the Oxford Group arriving with Dr. Buchman were: Colonel H. D. Belgrave, D. S. O., and Mrs. Belgrave, Miss Ruth Bennett, Miss Jean Thornton-Duesbury, Francis Elliston and Miss Rosalie Spiller, all of London; Mrs. Alexander Whyte, the Rev. John Watt, Loudon Hamilton and Mrs. Hamilton, James Watt, Evershed Thomson and Oda Barbour, all of Scotland; Count John Bentinck, Baroness Albertina van Heeckeren van Kell, Baroness Lillian van Heeckeren van Kell and Jonkheer Eric van Lennep, all of Holland; Mrs. Jessie Sheffield and Donald Mackay of South Africa; Mr. H. Kenaston Twitchell and Mrs. Twitchell and Miss Olive M. Jones of New York.

James Watt is the former Glasgow communist who organized the general strike in Scotland in 1925. He now gives all his time to the Oxford Group work.

The members of the party on the Aquitania gave out brief typewritten statements of their careers before and after joining the movement, telling how much happier their lives had become.