

## WILLIAMSTOWN NEWS

LIFE-CHANGING IS  
THEME OF MEETING

More Than 250 Crowd  
School Auditorium to  
Hear Members of Ox-  
ford Group.

"Witnessing," at last evening's meeting of the Oxford group by an engineer, a theological student from South Africa, a former college professor, a one time president of the National Education association, a Williamstown citizen, and several young women all tended to show that the spiritual needs of the individual are best fulfilled by his personal contact with and surrender to Jesus Christ.

More than 250 enthusiastic listeners heard nine equally enthusiastic members of the group eloquently discuss the problems they had encountered and how, in each instance, a personal reconsecration of their lives had been the ultimate solution.

The meeting was the second in a series of four that will be continued this evening and tomorrow at 8 o'clock in the Walter G. Mitchell school. With the exception of the chairman, H. Kenaston Twitchell of Oxford, England, none of those who spoke last night was heard at the opening session.

Again each of the witnesses observed to the letter the three characteristics that feature their meetings—"brevity, sincerity and hilarity." Again the group members and their guests mingled in a semi-circle of chairs that virtually covered the auditorium floor. Again good fellowship and informality prevailed.

As the first speaker, Mr. Twichell introduced Miss Olive Jones of New York city, former president of the National Education association and a woman who has devoted her long and useful life to education. Miss Jones spoke of her "searching" and failing to find reality in study or in social service until she had rededicated her life to Christ. It was at a meeting of the Oxford group or the First Century Christian Fellowship that she first found the strength she needed to accept God and face truth and reality, she said.

Henry R. Nichols of this town who has been associated with the Williamstown group for almost three years then gave an impressive account of how he had been brought to God by what at that time had appeared to him as a coincidence just when he had realized that his life was being wasted.

The Misses Nell Cochran of Rahway, N. J., and Madeline Spafford of Bedford Hills, N. Y., testified that they had been Christians in name only before coming into contact with the Fellowship which had given them new strength and a new vision.

Johannes de Kock of Bloemfontein, South Africa, who first came to this

country a year ago to study theology at Princeton university spoke of the Oxford group's influence throughout South Africa and of his own submission to Christ's guidance. He told of his first meeting in South Africa with the groups and the manner in which their influence had affected the lives of individual members of his family.

John Beck of Summit, N. J., told what a new interpretation of Christ, given him by the groups, had come to mean in his life. He is an engineer and convincingly expressed his belief that in a religious awakening lies the answer to many of the problems of the individual and the state.

Miss Ingrid Shellabarger, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Shellabarger of Washington, D. C., Williamstown summer residents, spoke of a new conception of the Holy Spirit and the power Christ gives to people through communion with Him. It was her first appearance as a member of the Fellowship.

Dr. Shellabarger, father of the previous speaker, introduced himself as a former university professor, a former military attache, a writer and one who recently found that while he had considered himself a nominal Christian he discovered had been only a good Pharisee. He told of his experiences with a group of scholars, philosophers and historians who decided just before the war that they would attempt to develop a religion of their own.

After passing several years abroad, Dr. Shellabarger said he returned to this country a middle-aged man with a gloomy outlook on life. He said

that he found renewed youth and a youthful spirit for himself when he joined the group whose members he referred to as "gamblers and adventurers"—gamblers in that they staked all on their personal conception of Christ's guidance and adventurer because in spreading their message they were finding romance and a full life.

In introducing one of the speakers, Mr. Twichell said the group either tonight or tomorrow may present their "religion that works" in the light of being the only answer to crime. He said that the Fellowship works in the churches, prisons, social settlements and every conceivable place where it sees a place to do good.

The visitors have been introduced to true Williamstown hospitality and delightful entertainment has been provided for every free moment. Twenty of them were the guests of Stetson court at an informal supper. Mr. and Mrs. William Cook Hart of preceding last evening's meeting.

This afternoon the group was to attend a tea and reception at Brown fields in South Williamstown, the summer home of Prof. and Mrs. Philip Marshall Brown, which Dr. and Mrs. Shellabarger have leased for the season.

Dr. Harry Augustus Garfield, president of Williams college and chairman of the Institute of Politics, and Mrs. Garfield will open their home the President's house, tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock for a special meeting arranged to give the Institute members an opportunity to become acquainted with the Fellowship leaders.