

May 14, 1932

THE EVENING STAR, WASHINGTON

BUCHMAN GROUPS MEET FOR WEEK

"House Party" of Oxford
Movement Attracts 500
at Shoreham.

Sounding the need for a "spiritual awakening" of the individual as the basis for the answer to all of the world's problems in times of crisis, followers of the Oxford Group Movement of laymen have opened in Washington a religious revival of a character which possibly never before has been experienced here.

Without prayer or appeal to emotions, leaders of the group held last night at the Shoreham Hotel the first of a series of "house parties," as the meetings of the Oxford Group are properly termed, at which they "shared" with the utmost simplicity their personal experiences with God.

It was an unusual gathering of its kind that composed the 500 or more persons who attended this first "house party." According to Dr. Frank N. D.

Buchman, founder of the Oxford Groups, the movement appeals directly to those who do not make a steady practice of church attendance.

Right Rev. James E. Freeman, Bishop of Washington, welcomed the group to Washington, and as the leader of the Episcopal Church, he declared the week's meetings offer one of the greatest opportunities that has ever come to the church. Prof. Alexander Smith of Princeton presided. Only seven other leaders of the group made talks. They represented all creeds and widely different walks in life.

One was a red-haired young coal miner from Scotland, an ex-Communist, who was a leader in the great coal strike that tied up British industry in 1925. "Jimmie Watt" was his name.

The "house party" will continue nightly at the Shoreham through Thursday, while during the day the various members of the group will speak to groups in the city.

There is nothing new in the Christianity which the movement expounds, Dr. Buchman says. It is the Christianity of the first century. Unlike the usual evangelistic movements that stop with the individual, the Oxford Group seeks to apply its interpretation to the answer of Christianity to the business and social problems of the individual

and in that way to the problems of the world.

Dr. Samuel Shellabarger of Washington, active in the movement in this city, received at the formal reception which preceded the opening of the meeting.