

materials, Buchman thunders that we have not yet tapped the great creative sources in the mind of God.

"God has a plan," he insists.



**GOOD-LOOKING** tennis player "Bunny" Austin is merely one of the many streamlined young athletes who have attached themselves to the Oxford Group Movement since 1921, when the quick-eyed, spectacled crusader from Pennsylvania hooked up with Loudon Hamilton at Christ Church, Oxford, and decided to run the moral vacuum-cleaner over undergraduates.

House-party evangelism brought many young men to God.

Despite a lot of sniping from sceptics, supporters of formal religion, abundant proof exists that the lives of many young men were drastically changed for the better—that the cash registers of Oxford public-houses indicated slumps, that a lot of local girls lost their boy-friends.



**THING** to be remembered is that, unlike really primitive Christianity—from that

**GROUPE** teams have carried the attack into 57 countries, using many of the high-pressure publicity expedients of the present day. Canada, it is said, was impressed when, in 1932, Prime Minister R. B. Bennett, introducing Dr. Buchman's spiritual storm troops to his Cabinet, declared:

*by*  
**TREVOR LANE**

"Speaking as a statesman, it is my conviction that the forces you so powerfully represent are the only ones that can save the world."



**NORWAY** concurred in 1934, when a Norwegian publicist declared that "the mental outlook of the whole country is definitely changed," four Oslo professors adding:

"The coming of the Oxford Group will prove a turning-

point in Norwegian history."

Britain, it is claimed, was one of the first countries to show interest. Between 1926 and 1935, attendance at the Oxford International House Parties grew from 50 to 10,000, representing more than 40 countries.



**RECENT** squabble in Britain about the incorporation of the Oxford Group like any other company in merchandise ended by the commercial affairs of the movement being put on something like a regular legal basis, and an outburst by humorist A. P. Herbert in the House of Commons.

In Parliament, however, no fewer than 250 M.P.'s supported Dr. Buchman, apparently convinced that he has got something worth their nods.



**AMONG** the "antis" is the famous American ethical writer, Dr. Remhold Neibuhr, who has indicted the movement for tapping the, as yet, unplumbed human well of ignorance and superstition; Professor Julian Huxley, who laughs at its philosophy; the Bishop of

Durham, who has denounced it for "its naivete, adolescence, its meagre and limited conception of Christianity, its tendency towards mysticism, and its Biblical literalness."

Others accuse Dr. Buchman of using religion as a cloak for



**MILES PHILLIMORE**  
Pioneered the Oxford Group movement in New Zealand.

political aims of a malodorously low order, such as strike-breaking, industrial spying, supplying the middle class with a weapon to sanctify the business of finding salvation and still making 100 per cent.

**FROM** Titirangi, near Auckland, I had a letter the other day, from a woman who said: "The July 31 Passing Pageant interested me, for I had just been thinking about 1914 and the years since."

"I was a little older than you when war broke out, and my dad was on the Permanent Staff—had been during the Boer War, too. How excited everyone got when war was declared! What an example of mob psychology!"



**"GOING** back over it in my mind, I remember snatches of conversation. How glad were some of the wives who were too cowardly to face the publicity of a divorce—the war had arrived and saved their faces for a while, but to-day they, like many loving, faithful wives and sweethearts, are just unpaid nurses to war-torn men, year after year, husbands whose minds, bodies and spirits were crushed. It wasn't such a glorious war after all!"

"I visit many of these men, and I know. My own dad is a war invalid, and an uncle of mine only regained his memory twice in 19 years, and then did not remember the girl he was engaged to. When he died, what was left for her after wasted years? Too old to start again—many girls of 1914 have faced just this!"



**"HOW** I remember the troopships leaving—the agonised look on my mother's face as I clung to her skirts, watching my dad march by with his men, his face weary and sad, his greatcoat weighed down with the pouring rain."

"Child as I was, I could feel the dumb agony of it all. I've never forgotten it. So many of my male relatives went, all who could—and some did not return—but more blessed are those who died in glory than are most who have returned to exist in pain."



**"I WAS** at an afternoon not long ago, and one young woman said she would wait 10 years for her husband if he was sent to jail, but if he joined the army of his own free will she'd divorce him and look about for another husband while still young enough to do so."

"I agree with her; we have seen too much of what our mothers have lost, too much of suffering men."

"I tackled an old army major about it, and he said that old war-horses like himself would fight because war was in their blood, but he added, 'You young folk won't let the war bug bite you, and I am beginning to think you are right.'"

# Pageant

associated with the down-trodden who scratched the fish symbol on Roman caves to General William Booth's Salvation Army—Dr. Buchman aimed to convert, in the first place, the wealthy and secure. Maybe there is spiritual depth here as well as political acumen. Critics say that it is exclusive, offering salvation only to those with the right social background.

Oxford Groupers themselves—and they ought to know—say that the charge of exclusiveness is unjust, that there is room for the dustman as well as the Premier in the Group Movement.



**TO** be a good Grouper, it is only necessary, apparently, to be a good man. There is no body of theological law to be mastered and interpreted. More, Buchmanism is claimed to be so inclusive that it embraces all formal religions and revitalises their secular strength.

Slogan on this point: Oxford Groupism is not a new denomination, but a new determination.

While there is ample evidence that Dr. Buchman does not seek to upset the social status quo, the movement claims to be revolutionary.

## 3 Ostriches 3 Birds We All Know



**T**HERE'S a story circulating round London at the moment that first appeared in an American paper at the time the King and Queen were staying at White House. Rumour says that the King took it back to England—but no one can be found to testify to this.

Anyway, here's the story:—

It seems that Ostriches Hitler and Mussolini were sitting around one day gossiping when they spied Ostrich Chamberlain approaching in the distance.

"Oh, there's that old bore, Chamberlain," exclaimed Ostrich Hitler. "Let's hide from him."

So Ostriches Hitler and Mussolini buried their heads in the sand according to an old Ostrich custom, just as Ostrich Chamberlain arrived on the scene.

Ostrich Chamberlain looked puzzled.

"That's damn funny," he said. "They were here just a minute ago."