

### KRISHNAMURTI.

#### AT OMMEN STAR CAMP, HOLLAND.

Holland, as everyone knows, is a land of dykes, canals and windmills, but between the Zuider Zee and Germany, there is a region of forest, lakes, heath and even low hills, which resemble North Germany.

Here, near the townlet of Ommen, some seven miles from Zwalle, an important town and railway junction, has arisen within the last few weeks, partly on the open heath and partly among the firs and pines, a miniature town of canvas. It consists of hundreds of tents of all shapes and sizes, provided with small beds of single construction and mattresses, or long trestle tables and benches, according as they are intended for sleep or meals.

The work of preparation has been done by a happy band of volunteer women and men, maidens, and youths from near and far, not only from all parts of Holland, but from Italy and Iceland, Germany, France, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, England, Poland, Russia, even India. One German youth being penniless performed the journey on foot, depending for food and lodging on the hospitality of strangers, and it is to be thankfully recorded that he did not seek in vain.

On July 28th there arrived by special trains the many-tongued multitude who are to inhabit this canvas town for ten days. One kind old lady (how kind the Dutch are), who has a confectioner's shop in Ommen, anxiously asked if we understood one another and how we managed when it rained—which it very often does, and in torrents too. What has brought these hundreds of people, in many cases at great personal sacrifice, to this out-of-the-way place?

They have come, as many have done for the last seven years, to listen to Krishnamurti; the young sage and teacher, who was born in India, but declares that he is of no particular country, although he carries a British passport and speaks and writes English. They believe that from his lips fall, indeed, words of Eternal Life, words of the deepest import. Each year they listen with eager concentrated attention to his talks and his answers to questions, each year those who have understood go away scrawful like a rich young ruler of old, for they have many possessions, mental, material and emotional, which this ruthless young sage calls upon them to give up. For he tells them that it was not until he himself got rid of all accretions, became utterly empty, that he was able to realise the Truth and attain liberation from all that binds. This does not necessarily mean that a man must become a homeless

wherever he is, whatever his circumstances, if he is ever seeking Truth, is freed from systems and methods that are but imitation and therefore of no value. He who desires that completeness can have no teacher, he has to seek for himself. He has to free himself from every prejudice being empty, like a cup—for the usefulness of a cup is its emptiness.

To a question as to whether the progress of technical science increases the possibility of greater spiritual contact between nations, Krishnamurti answered that science develops, but there is more and more conflict. For a man who is seeking Truth there exist no nationalities, no frontiers. He does not divide men into French, German, or English, he is free of flags, he becomes a human being. Science can bring India into closer contact with Europe but if people have a colour prejudice, Science cannot remove it, it can explain about pigmentation, but no one can remove the prejudice except ourselves.

To another question regarding unemployment, the economic crisis and the possibility of revolution, Krishnamurti replied: One must still be rebellious even though one has plenty of food. The whole system of life is based on the individual fighting the whole world. We must co-operate with others in order to produce bread and in co-operating we come in contact with innumerable people and that is an opportunity to become impersonal. We have tried to realise Truth collectively and to work individually. Now I say the opposite, work collectively, seek independently, so if you base your whole plan of life on that, then there will be no question of the unemployed and of keeping them satisfied so that there be no revolution.