

## What is the secret of M.R.A.?

**D**URING the last few days a number of people of different races, creeds, classes and cultural backgrounds have met near Johannesburg to bear witness to the essential brotherhood of man. They are members of Moral Rearmament.

In the manner characteristic of the movement, they testified to its impact upon their personal lives and on their attitudes towards the challenging issues of our times. Perhaps the most remarkable part of this testimony consisted in the accounts by various spokesmen of the startling transformation in their outlook on human relations across the colour barriers.

With transparent sincerity these men and women, White and non-White, believed—and demonstrated from their own experience — that they had found a new way to reconciliation and mutual co-operation. Unbaring their souls, they recalled how their days in the past had been filled with all the bitterness of racial strife. Europeans who had shared in the guilt of intolerance and injustice were matched by men and women of other races who, in their profound resentment at wrongs suffered, had lost sight of the good in their fellow-men and the evil of insensate hatred.

All were agreed that in this suicidal conflict it was possible somewhere along the road to discover a change of heart which would enable men to live and work together for common ends and with a better understanding of each other's difficulties. They can achieve this, the followers of M.R.A. believe, by shedding their prejudices, suspicions and animosities.

At the gathering referred to striking examples were given, in circumstances familiar to all, of the positive results accomplished by those who had dedicated themselves to the cause.

We know that there are many who look upon Moral Rearmament with cynicism not unmixed with disdain. Even those who do not impeach

the good faith of the movement doubt whether its claims are justified and whether it holds the key to any effective solution to the problems of human and race relationships in the complex modern world.

We ourselves would not attempt to decide one way or the other between the opposing views. And yet we cannot lightly dismiss a movement which has attracted to itself the passionate devotion of men and women of the highest intelligence and integrity, to the point where many of them have made great material sacrifices for their beliefs.

In the minds of many people there are large question marks behind Moral Rearmament and what it stands for. But we doubt whether even the most sceptical of them would deny the desirability of a fellowship of the spirit whose ideals are in direct line with the fundamentals of Christianity.