

# St. Madoc Again

By SID G  
HEDGES

## The Pioneer Youth Camp-Hostel which is Making History

MY annual August visit to the St. Madoc Christian Youth camp-hostel, just beyond Swansea, has become an event to which I keenly look forward, and the week which I have just enjoyed there was no less stimulating than its two predecessors.

St. Madoc, under the guidance of the Rev. Maurice Charles, is making history in the Sunday School and Christian Youth world. It is a commonplace that we need new methods to-day and, even more, new leaders. From many platforms and pulpits this theme is exploited. St. Madoc has gone far beyond the talking stage—it is demonstrating the methods and producing the leaders.

When I went down in 1941 I took the fifteen-mile bus journey up the lovely Gower peninsula

to the quiet village of Llanmadoc. From here a mile walk along a picturesque lane brought me to a narrow, muddy track between lush, fern-strewn hedges. I wished I had strong Wellingtons as I ploughed my way along. No bicycle could have been pushed down that path. Then at last I reached the open hillside, flanking the sea, and there was the camp—a tiny cottage, which alone was habitable, and dilapidated cowshed and cart shelter.

### A Christian Youth Centre in Action

This year, approaching down a farm track wide enough for a car, I found the camp accommodating sixty Sunday School folk. Every week throughout this summer something like this number of Christian Youth people are there—studying, praying, working, playing together. And it is these same people who during these last two years have made such remarkable changes.

It is a simple, uninspiring business to call in a contractor and instruct him to build the place you require and tell you when it is finished. You can hardly get any deep affection for a building of that sort. But St. Madoc's is not of that sort. All of the visionary young Christians who have gone there have shared in the building, and so

have deeply embedded their affections in it. I go instinctively to see "my bit" of wall in the "barn," and "my window" in the dining hall. This year, in between all the other activities, not forgetting washing plates and peeling potatoes in incredible quantities, we cleared a large piece of ground from fern and brambles in readiness for the building of a new hall. Then there is a rose-garden to be made, a reservoir to be constructed, a playing field to be completed, a new chapel to be built—by which time new dormitory accommodation will be wanted. So all readers who are stirred to go there can be assured of plenty to do for many years to come! (I went alone for my first visit; last year one from my school accompanied me; this time five came; and already there are additional bookings for next summer from our staff!)

My personal hope is that St. Madoc may, for at least a week or two in the year, become a sort of regional N.S.S.U. conference centre. Already all sorts of denominational and Christian bodies are discovering it.

For lady workers who are weary of cooking for one or two, and would like to tackle cook-house work for sixty, in jolly company, St. Madoc is the place! So it is for those who like good Welsh singing, or swimming, or worship amid nature's loveliness, or the fun and frolic of simple Christian community life. But especially it is the place for those who want new visions of what Christian Youth can do and is doing!

England is waiting for its first St. Madoc, on similar lines to the pioneer Welsh centre. I wonder which S.S.U. is going to lead the way?

To All Youth Leaders—  
The Movement that meets the need  
International—  
Interdenominational

### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

Three booklets you should read: "Christian Endeavour and Modern Needs," 7d. (post free); "Christian Endeavour Methods and Organisation," 1/2 (post free); "Junior Christian Endeavour Manual," 7d. (post free). These and all particulars of this progressive Movement can be obtained from The General Secretary, 4D, Ludgate Circus Buildings, London, E.C.4.