

"The Climbers" at The Lois.

The Fantages players are seen to good advantage at The Lois this week in "The Climbers," by Clyde Fitch; a play which was produced with great success about five years ago. The success of that time was principally due to the excellent acting of a company in support of Amelia Bingham, which included such well known players as Robert Edison, Frank Worthing, Ferdinand Gottschalk and Minnie Dupree. Although it has been called Fitch's best play, the author's name will not live long in the history of the drama unless he writes a better one.

At that, it is not a bad play and it has several situations which approach greatness. These were generally well handled yesterday, but the atmosphere which Fitch creates principally with small talk and epigram, suffered severely from lack of preparation.

The plot of the play revolves about the character of "Dick Sterling" and his attempts to get rich in the stock market by questionable means. He becomes an embezzler and a general brute although his old friends stick by him for the sake of his wife and child. One of these friends, "Ned Warden," is in love with the wife although she does not know it, and finally in the big dramatic moment of the play, after her husband has accused her of infidelity she casts him out of her life and avows her love for "Warden." Even then, however, she resolves to keep up appearances for the sake of her boy, and "Sterling" clears up an unpleasant situation by taking morphine.

The play takes its title from the social aspirations of the wife's mother and her friends who are striving to climb into society, and this phase of the story is filled with delightful satire—especially the opening scene when the family returns from the cemetery after burying "father." It is cruelly but deliciously funny and this as well as several similar scenes deserves more preparation than was apparent in yesterday's performances.

Mr. Frawley as "Warden" was effective and scored in his two big scenes. Miss May as "Mrs. Sterling" was good. V. T. Henderson has a thankless part in "Sterling" and was inclined to be too melodramatic. A physician would scarcely agree with him in his idea of the effects of morphine and he spelled the curtain of the second act last night by being too slow.

Miss Walcott fell short of her usual success in the character of the ambitious mother and Philip Sheffield was also below his standard as the young man with money in search of something "classy." Miss Agnes Johns, Miss Clara Kimball and Miss Mary E. Carr all deserve special mention.

The production is splendidly mounted and with a few more rehearsals should be classed among the best things the company has offered at The Lois. Following is the cast:

Ned Warden	Mr. Frawley
Dick Sterling	Mr. V. T. Henderson
Mr. Mason	Mr. Ed. M. Kimball
Mr. Trotter	Mr. Philip Sheffield
Dr. Steinhart	Mr. F. C. Huebner
Mr. Godesby	Mr. Wm. Abrams
Jordan	Mr. H. G. Lonsdale
Leonard	Mr. Harry F. Cummings
Thompson	Mr. George Clawson
Blanche Sterling	Miss Aileen May
Miss Godesby	Miss Agnes Johns
Clara Hunter	Miss Clara Kimball
Miss Ellerton	Miss O. M. Lattimer
Mrs. Hunter	Miss Julia Walcott
Miss Ruth Hunter	Miss Mary E. Carr
Jessie Hunter	Miss Ruth Neely
Marie	Miss Doris Piper



Good Melodrama at