

THE NEW PLAYS Washington Square Players Score in "The Clod."

BY CHARLES DARTON

IN coming over to the Comedy Theatre last night the Washington Square Players made a distinct impression in "The Clod," one of four one-act plays that comprised the bill.

It was in this play that Mary Morris dressed herself into first place as the poor, tired drudge of a farm-house on the border line between the North and South during the Civil War. After light and rather amusing sketches, Miss Morris gave a grim, human performance that stamped her as an actress with a real sense of character.

"The Clod," by Lewis Beach, is the most gripping short play that has been given here since "The Black Mask," the dramatic horror of which was realized at the Princess Theatre in the fine acting of Holbrook Blinn and Emily Poind. At once "The Clod" gets down to earth with its "poor white trash"—hapless old Trank and his slaving wife. She asks for nothing but rest. She knows nothing but dull, grinding toil. When a worn-out, fugitive Northern soldier makes his way into the house, she looks at him wearily and with the weight of weariness heavy upon her, merely says: "Don't faint in here."

The fugitive, as acted by Glenn Hunter, makes so much noise in hiding himself that he deserves little consideration. Interest centres in poor, hardworking Mary Trank, and the brutal shock of the play is felt when the pursuing sergeant takes her roughly by the arm, threatens her with his pistol, and then orders her to get him something to eat. Finally, when he flies into a rage because the meal is not to his liking and smashes a cup on the floor, she seizes a shotgun and kills him. But there is a still greater dramatic moment in the play. The woman has no sense of the tragedy she has worked. Dully, blind to the fate that man, she stoops down, picks up a bit of the broken china and looking at it, murmurs: "And now we'll have to drink out of a tin cup." That is all—the curtain comes down.

From first to last Miss Morris was like a dull, aching thing, conscious only of the toll that meant the woman's life, day in and day out. John King succeeded in getting under the skin of the lame old husband, and although Robert Strange seemed unnecessarily brutal at times, he did an effective piece of work in the role of the sergeant.

In "The Honorable Lover" the acting was not nearly so good as Roberto Bracco's clever Italian farce. Florence Knight acted painfully affected and self-conscious as the wife whose lover, believing in safety first, compels her to keep her husband. It was Frank Conroy, as the circumpect lover, who gave the only humorous touch to this little skit.

A French farce of the fifteenth century, "Pierre Patelin," became a wooden affair in the hands of the Washington Square Players, and "Helen's Husband," a so-called historical comedy, by Philip Moeller, fared little better. However, certain incidents means employed did not seem in the least to disturb Helen Westley, who was extremely frank and equally servicable as the queen's black slave.

It is "The Clod," with Miss Morris' realistic acting, that justifies the Washington Square Players in venturing from the Bandbox to the Comedy Theatre.

MOTION PICTURE NOTES Pearl White recently bought a house at Hazlet, L. I. No, it isn't the White house, darn ye! Mollie King spent seventeen weeks in the mountains making her pictures. Necessarily her salary was high. Ah, ha! Louise Mercereau has refused to go to Los Angeles to work in films. Now will Los Angeles be good? Frank Daniels has begun working in a comedy called "Gus and His Luck" for the Vitagraph. Charles Flicker is the director. Constance Crawley of the American Comedy Company has been told by a fortune teller that she will die a natural death. All right—now bring on your cliff falls and auto leaps. Lee Ochs, President of the Exhibition League, is to be honored by the film interests with a dinner at Brighton Beach on June 25. He has begun dieting in order to be good and hungry. Centepede Island, in the Caribbean Sea, has been put in the movies as an educational picture. The fact that it is covered with centepedes make one wonder how many feet there are in the reel. The director of publicity for the World Film Corporation announces that on Sundays Alice Brady takes her breakfast in bed, then goes to church, after which she pulls weeds in her garden for a while. Through an arrangement with Joseph S. Klutz, the Universal has acquired pictures of the Dr. Dorsey Expedition, which covered the greater parts of India, Japan, China, Persia and several other countries. The film will be released in split reels under the Powers label to be honored by the Powers label. Rose Coghlan is to act in a film called "The Faded Flower," under the auspices of the Ivan Film Productions. The film was written by Ivan Abramson. It is announced that Maryguette Snow and Alma Hanlon will be in the cast, also. Eddie Lyons and Lee Moran, who work together in a comic comedy company, are very much alike in their actions and manner of speech, made so by their almost constant association. Eddie will start a sentence and Lee will finish it. Eddie has a toothache the other day and Lee almost died with pain.

"THE TIGER LILIES" GIVE FINE BURLESQUE AT OLYMPIC THEATRE.

"The Tiger Lilies," nine principals and a chorus of thirty girls, captured a large audience at the Olympic Theatre on Fourteenth Street last night, when they settled down for the week's engagement. In the audience were three hundred members of the James E. Brande Association in one big theatre party.

"HYPOCRISY" SCORES AT ACADEMY OF MUSIC; NEW FOX FEATURE FILM.

"Hypocrisy," another of William Fox's feature films, is the attraction at the Academy of Music for the first three days of the week. The picture is a novel treatment of the triangle, with a background of stock tickers and bridge tables. The principal part is taken by Virginia Pearson.

COMEDY THAT IS COMEDY, NOT SAD, PHONEY COMEDY, AT PROCTOR'S 5TH AVE.

If you want to have a good laugh for a small price, take a tip and go to Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre, where, the first half of this week, a strong comedy bill—and it's good comedy too—is offered. Of course, there is singing and dancing, as well

as music on the programme, but the fun-making predominates from the beginning to the end. Among the funmakers last night who were roundly applauded were Joe Hoyan's Lunatic Bakers; Kenny and Hollis, known as the original college boys, in a skit called "Frontie's Initiation," and Frank Doane and Beulah Poynter in a funny playlet, "The Natalie Sisters in their dainty musical offering rounded out a first class programme.

BILLIE BURKE SHINES IN TWO CHAPTERS OF "GLORIA'S ROMANCE."

"The Gathering Storm" and "Hidden Fires," which constitute the fifth and sixth chapters of "Gloria's Romance," the Rupert Hughes serial, with Billie Burke as the star, were given at the Globe Theatre yesterday. This section of the serial is made most absorbing by the portrayal of Miss Burke of a girl passing through the throes of a serious illness. The story at this point leads up to the mysterious disappearance of Richard Freeman, the favored suitor for the young heiress's hand, and the adventures Gloria encounters when she commences her search for him.

Henry Kolker and David Powell, who are appearing in support of Miss Burke, have ample opportunity to display their accomplishments, and an excellent bit of acting is done by Frank McElwyn, who is not programmed.

OLD DR. FLIVVER. Hurrying to a hospital to have a walnut dislodged from her throat, the flivver in which a Hackensack woman was riding jolted her so effectively that the operation became unnecessary.

TAUGHT CRUELTY IN ARMY. Driver Who Hit Horse's Ear Says Officer Showed Him the Trick.

Former service in the United States Army earned leniency for Harry Salls, twenty-four, of No. 13 East One Hundred and Eighth Street, when he was before Magistrate Koenig in the Men's Night Court last night on a charge of cruelty to animals.

Dr. George T. Olcott of No. 73 Park Avenue said that Salls's horse refused to move at Park Avenue and Sixty-seventh Street. Salls beat them, then got off and bit an ear of one animal deeply. Patrolman Koch arrested Salls.

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