

**The Golden Ladder.** By Margaret Potter.  
New York: Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.

The sub-title of *The Golden Ladder*, by Margaret Potter, is "An American Comedy of Gold," but it is really a tragedy of that restless and resistless passion for money, worked out with painful exactness to its worst results, in the story of a poor and ambitious young man and woman in a Chicago boarding house. They love each other, but do not marry, because of the fear of thwarting the ambition to be rich, which becomes the baleful and dominant influence in the two lives, and, incidentally, blights a good many other people's happiness in the hardening process, which burns all of the fineness and most of the goodness out of man and girl alike. Only the man becomes hard and strong, and the woman hard and weak, a result not so contradictory as it sounds in the case of character-annealing. There is a study of boarding-house life, careful, pitiless, and recalling a similar group in Miss May Sinclair's "The Divine Fire," only the Chicago "homeless" are more restlessly ambitious than their London prototypes, and the hero of the American "Epic of the Boarding House" is a financier and not a poet, altho both burn with the fire of

genius. The characters of Mrs. Clephane and her daughter Kitty are drawn remarkably well. Revolting as they are, one cannot help admitting their verisimilitude nor recalling types in recent newspaper reports of notorious women whom they resemble. The book has no heroine.



Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.