STRICT JEWS AT TABLE.

A NEW YORK RESTAURANT WHERE THE FOOD IS KOSCHER.

Ablutions, Prayers and Covered Heads. The Bill of Fare—Excited Disputants Who Remain Friendly—Closed on Saturday, but Open on Sunday.

Some time ago the Jewish Ministers' association, which includes the leading rabbis of New York, considered means of improving the observance of the Jewish Sabbath. Among other things that were discussed incidentally was the rapid decline of the observance of the Mosaic dietary laws. It was frankly admitted that many Jews no longer remained loyal to them. This was declared to be the case even with those who were otherwise good Jews.

But there are some wealthy Jewish merchants who still adhere to the strict letter of the dietary laws, and the most prominent of these meet every noon in a Jewish restaurant in Mercer street. It is the most typical place of the kind in this country. Here may be observed the Jewish customs in regard to meals as they are in vogue in the most orthodox communities of Russian Poland.

TWO PRAYERS BEFORE THE MEAL.

A reporter accompanied Coroner Levy to the Mercer street restaurant the other day. It was noon when they reached there. A large sign which hung suspended from an iron rod outside the restaurant described its character through the three mysterious looking Hebrew characters which spell the word "koscher." The interior was in no way unlike that of any other restaurant, except that the decoration was old and old fashioned and that the floor was bare.

The reporter's first inclination upon entering the place was to remove his hat, but his hand was checked on its way to his head, for he noticed that all at the tables wore their hats. There were about twenty-five men there, all solid looking business men, with unmistakable Hebraic features.

The rear end of the room was divided off by means of curtains from the space reserved for the tables. Just inside of these curtains was a washstand, with running water, hidden behind a screen. As each customer came in he would take off his overcoat, hang it up, and then go to the washstand and wash his hands, looking very devout in the meantime, and moving his lips in rapid muttering. He was repeating in Hebrew this prayer:

"Blessed be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us with Thy command, and hast ordered us to wash our hands."

Having thus performed his first duty he took his seat and ordered his dinner. He began this by cutting off a little piece of bread, which he dipped in salt. Before touching it he repeated this prayer:

"Blessed be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth."

Then he bit off a piece of the salt bread and swallowed it before touching anything else. The meal was an elaborate one. There were two kinds of soups, four entrees, five roasts, a lot of vegetables, four kinds of dessert, and coffee. All the dishes were of the German-Jewish type—that is, they were German dishes prepared in the Jewish way. There was goose breast, and stuffed goose neck, and calves' tongue with sour-sweet sauce, and almond cake. Excepting the abundant grease, everything was well cooked.

The portions were very large; still with nearly every course the diner was asked by the waiter whether he did not want more. Of course there was no butter served. Butter being made of milk cannot, according to the dietary laws, be eaten with meat or any substance containing blood. There were three waiters, all of them remarkably attractive in appearance and typical in character.

SOME OF THE DINERS.

At half-past 12 the restaurant was pretty well filled. The talk at the table was very loud, and at some of the tables it was extremely argumentative. From the way in which the clinched fists came down on the tables, making the glasses and plates jump, and from the loud and savage words, the reporter expected to see blows struck. But the differences, if there were any, were smoothed over, and apparently those engaged in the controversies remained as friendly as ever.

One man who came in alone attracted the coroner's attention. He was very solemn looking, with a gray beard, deep set gray eyes, and heavy eyebrows. Before going to the washstand he removed his hat and replaced it with a little skull cap.

"That man," said Coroner Levy, "is a very wealthy Broadway merchant, and is noted for his great piety. Even in his own home he never sits down to a meal with his head uncovered. The Jewish theory, you know, is that it is an insult to the Deity to appear before him with uncovered head. I know one very wealthy uptown Hebrew, who is noted for his Talmudic knowledge and devotion to religion, who I believe would rather cut off his right hand than sit down to a meal with his head uncovered. He has half a dozen children, all boys, and several are not more than 4 or 5 years old. It is very odd to go to a dinner at his house and see all the male members of the family come down to the table wearing their little caps. Then they all say grace, even the little shavers."

"I have been here a number of times," said Coroner Levy, "and always find about the same persons. Very few of them will eat anywhere else unless they have absolute assurance that the meals are prepared according to the dietary laws. This is the only Jewish restaurant in New York that is sanctioned by Chief Rabbi Joseph. It closes every Saturday, but is open on Sunday. Occasionally you see a man come in here and take off his hat in a defiant manner, as though he wished to impress upon the others present that he has outlived the regard for the old custom which they follow. Everybody looks at him angrily, and he must be pretty thick skinned if he can stand the glances and remarks directed at him."

For a moment after emerging into the busy street the reporter felt lost. The American character of everything around him seemed foreign to what he had just seen, and he felt like a traveler returned from strange lands to his native heath.—New York Sun.

How Gold Wire Is Made.

In making what is called gold wire a cylindrical ingot of silver well gilt is drawn successively through a number of small round holes in a steel plate, each hole being less than the other, till the thread is no wider than a hair. This can now be flattened by passing between two small rollers of polished steel, and so fit it to be used in the making of brocades, laces, embroideries, etc. Spun gold is, in fact, flattened gold wire wrapped over a thread of silk by twisting with a wheel and iron bobbins.—Chambers' Journal.

Gold is rather softer than silver; therefore, to make gold coin and jewelry wear as well as silver, a small quantity of some other metal is alloyed with it. What is termed "sterling" or "standard" gold consists of pure gold alloyed with one-twelfth of either copper or silver. In English coin, a mixture of copper and silver is used to make up this one-twelfth.

In 1719 came a week's fall of snow in January, followed by a long, hard frost, in London. Provisions became so dear in the west of England that bread was sold by its weight in money, and coals were forty shillings a quarter.

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From the N. Y. Tribune, Nov. 1, 1893.

The Flour Awards

"CHICAGO, Oct. 31.—The first official announcement of World's Fair diplomas on flour has been made. A medal has been awarded by the World's Fair judges to the flour manufactured by the Washburn, Crosby Co., in the great Washburn Flour Mills, Minneapolis. The committee reports the flour strong and pure, and entitles it to rank as first-class patent flour for family and bakers' use."

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Jermyn—C. D. Winters & Co., Superlative.
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Minooka—M. H. Lavelle.
Taylor—Judge & Co., Gold Medal; Atherton & Co., Superlative.
Duryea—Lawrence Store Co., Gold Medal.
Moosic—John McCrindle, Gold Medal.
Pittston—M. W. O'Boyle, Gold Medal.
Clark's Green—Frace & Parker, Superlative.
Clark's Summit—F. M. Young, Gold Medal.
Dalton—S. E. Finn & Son, Gold Medal Brand.
Nicholson—J. E. Harding.
Waverly—M. W. Bliss & Son, Gold Medal.
Factoryville—Charles Gardner, Gold Medal.
Hopbottom—N. M. Finn & Son, Gold Medal.
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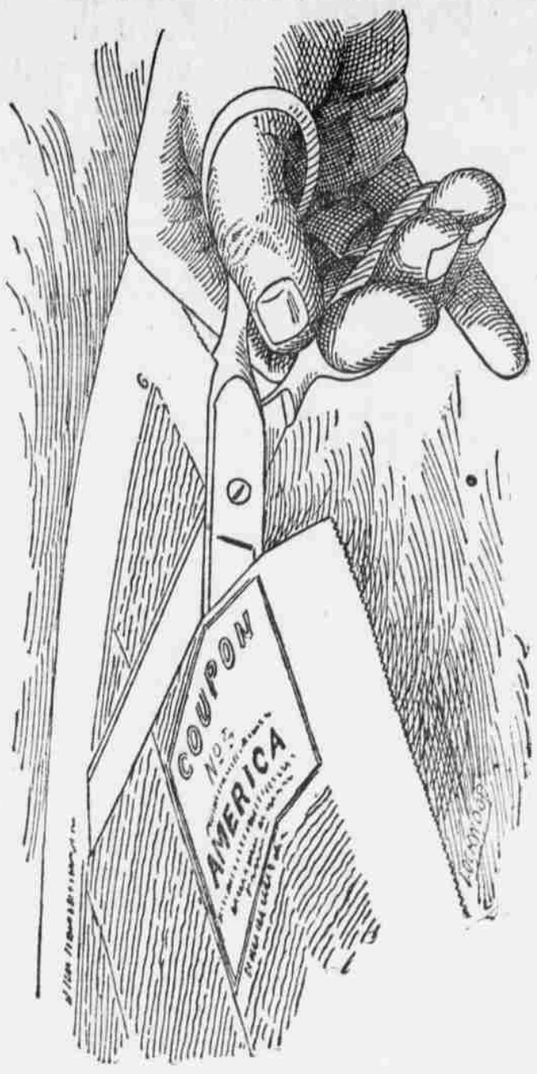

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