

Woman's Lunch Counter De Luxe on Fifth Ave. From Which Mere Men Are Barred---Really!



It Is No Place for Slender Purses or the Girl in a Hurry, and Strange Marvels of the Confectioner's Art Are Set Forth Upon the Menu.

By Ethel Lloyd Patterson.

There is a lunch counter on Fifth Avenue. It is exclusively for women. Remember, it is not a tea room, nor yet a charming little confectionery with dainty tables. It is just a plain, everyday lunch counter; the first and only institution of its kind to open its democratic doors upon New York's long line of lacerated portals.

Nor is it situated at that far end of Fifth Avenue at mention of which so many of us look blankly well bred, and from whence, incidentally, so many of us came. Neither is it near that other end where Washington Arch droops its mouth sadly over the omnibuses and drays that have replaced the one time broughams and victorias. Right in the midst of New York's most fashionable shopping district the lunch counter in question has reared its vinegar crusts and sweet pickle jars. Very near Fifth Avenue's pocket-book and consequently very near its heart. A stone's throw from the Waldorf; a few blocks from Sherry's or Delmonico's and directly across the avenue from Tiffany's. Surely enterprise makes strange neighbors.

CAN'T GET "PORK AND" OR EVEN "PLATE OF WHEATS."

Yet, you must not judge too hastily. Do not imagine that you could top down on one of the high stools, plant your elbows firmly on the polished surface of the counter and call for "pork and," or "a plate of wheats," and expect it to be understood. Here is a new, in fact, an utterly modern language. A lunch counter language, perhaps, but none the less very much of Fifth Avenue. Strange marvels of the confectioner's art are set forth upon the menu, and unless these names come trippingly to your tongue you know yourself at once to be a rank outsider. Murmur, "One choux praline and a Bûche Parisienne," to the white-clad waiter behind the counter and watch him deferentially slide the trifles of crust and cream from his tray to your plate. But dare to point an uneducated but determined finger

at the pastry the while you huckly demand "One of those," and know yourself from that moment a social outcast. Read your fate in the raised eyebrows and suspended forks of those about you.

In no other place in New York does your position in society depend so absolutely upon a thorough knowledge of what one might call the cake catechism. And do not fancy, either, that here will be a refuge into which you may slide on the days you don your last year's hat because it looked like rain in the morning. Learn now that a lunch counter is not necessarily an embodiment of the vision the name conjures. Here are no neatly tailored stenographers, nor smudged travellers bolting for their trains. The feet that rest upon the low brass rail are sliken and vasty buckled. The purses reposing on the counter top are jeweled and chained and monogrammed. The hats that bend above the steaming plates bear plumes more heavy than the thoughts beneath them.

But you must not think these beautiful ladies who politely but firmly rebuff a place for themselves at the counter do not really eat. Ah, no. The more ethereal the appearance, the greater the need of sustenance, apparently.

BUT THEY'RE GOOD EATERS, IF DAINTY ONES.

"Mathilde," sighed the one in velvet; long amethyst earrings made purple lights on the cream of her cheeks and her throat rose from a fold of priceless lace—"Mathilde, I'm just going to eat a trifle. Nothing at all, really. You see, I had my breakfast served in my room very late."

"Dearest," replied Mathilde, "that suits me perfectly. I don't want a thing myself. Oh, just the merest bite. You know I'm dieting. I've lost!" And then after a pause: "I tell you what we'll have, Mathilde, just a few oysters and after that some bouillon. Then, my love, as long as we are neither of us very hungry, we might have a chicken pate and some eggs benedictine. No potatoes, dearest, they're so fattening. We'll just have a taste of lobster salad and a Biscuit Tortoni with some Frangipane cake. Will you have chocolate with whipped cream, dear, or tea?" And Mathilde murmured "chocolate."

as she reached for one of the little graham bread sandwiches that are piled at intervals on the counter.

One cannot help wondering whether the character of the men would change if men were to invade the place. However, that we may never know.

MERE MAN IS BARRED FROM THE HALLOWED LUNCH.

For now an angel Gabriel in the person of a slender youth, immaculately haberdashed and with a pompadour attesting like a halo, bars the way of the unaccustomed male who turns his feet toward hallowed ground. At the back of the store, up a few steps and at the ladies'-exit, there he may see But the lunch counter from 11 in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon is not to be desecrated by the presence of man.

"And has the counter been started as a convenience for the women who have only a few minutes to spare for luncheon from their shopping?" I asked.

"The woman behind the pastry counter shrugged her shoulders.

"Does a lady ever hurry, madam?" she said.

I watched. Indeed, I watched a woman leisurely draw on her long suede gloves and button carefully each button, though another woman stood behind her waiting for her place. I watched her languidly gather her purse and handkerchief and little parcels, and languidly saunter to the cashier's desk. There she laid down her handkerchief and purse and little parcels and paid her check and very slowly adjusted her veil, while three other women with their purses and handkerchiefs and little parcels waited to do likewise.

So it is not because the smart women of New York can no longer spare time to eat that Fifth Avenue's first lunch counter has come into existence. And it cannot be because society is dieting very rigorously. Maybe it is because even persons of social position in this

country have a quaint streak of Americanism in them. After all, a lunch counter appeals to an organ which is very near our heart.

Four Companies on Duty to Protect Strike-Breakers in Mississippi. NATCHES, Miss., Oct. 10.—A telephone message from McComb City says four companies of militia have been sent to Summit in anticipation of an attack on Illinois Central trains scheduled to leave McComb with strike-breakers.

It is reported a number of strikers have secreted themselves along the line a short distance from McComb.

HAD REVOLVER IN SLEEVE.

Man Seized in Crowd Is Held Under the Sullivan Law.

Frank Denoto, arrested by Detective Burke of the East Twenty-second street station at Twelfth street and First avenue and discovered to be carrying a baby hammerless revolver in his right sleeve, was arraigned in the Yorkville Court this morning under the Sullivan weapon law.

Burke, who is known as "Gum-Shoe Billy," got a tip that there was to be trouble at the First avenue corner. He found a crowd there and upon Denoto's making a suspicious remark grabbed him by the arm and found the revolver. The prisoner told Lieut. Gregg of the East Twenty-second street station that he had been in the United States twenty-two years, but had taken out only his first citizenship papers. He is thirty-two years old and lives at No. 30 East One Hundred and Twelfth street.

New Russian Ambassador Sails. ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 10.—The newly appointed Russian Ambassador to the United States, M. George Bakmeteff, and Madame Bakmeteff left last night for America. Secretary Wheeler and the staff of the American Embassy were at the railway station to bid them farewell. Ambassador Guild is out of town for a brief vacation.

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TROOPS TO GUARD TRAINS.

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