

THE HEBREW SYNAGOGUES

RELIGIOUS DUTIES IN JEWISH TEMPLES OF WORSHIP.

Their Government by the Talmud—What is Required to Hold Services—The Minyan Men.

The age of many Jewish institutions is very uncertain; the most firmly established customs are not, in all cases, the most ancient. There was a time when, as in the Christian Church, no legal limit had been assigned as the quorum necessary to constitute a congregation. Though the Talmud distinctly exacts that ten adult males must assemble before certain parts of the liturgy may be recited, somewhat earlier Jewish authorities mention seven, and even six, as sufficient for the purpose. The importance of public worship was very strongly insisted upon in the Talmud, and has, indeed, been universally recognized. "Pray, in a congregation," said Mohammed, "for the wolf does not attack the sheep unless one has strayed from the flock." So long as the Jews lived together in the crowded quarters assigned for their residences in European towns, no difficulty can have been experienced in mustering a quorum of ten for religious services. In many modern communities, however, especially in the English provincial towns, the number of Jewish inhabitants is very small. In those cases the pressure of the custom is heavily felt. Even in the larger towns, however, it is found impossible to rely on the regular attendance of a quorum of worshippers at all the daily and evening services. The morning service is long, and the modern man of business cannot afford the luxury of appearing in his synagogue except on Sabbaths and festivals. There are certain occasions, however, on which no man omits to attend his usual place of worship, regardless of the inconvenience his doing so may entail. Foremost among these is the "Jahrzeit," or anniversary of the death of a near relative. The Jew never fails to visit the synagogue on that day, in order to recite the beautiful prayer in which God's justice and greatness are proclaimed despite the sad memories of the past bereavement. This prayer, which is termed the Kaddish, cannot be recited unless the legal quorum of worshippers is present. Obviously, however, Jahrzeits will in large communities be of almost daily occurrence; hence the urgent necessity to provide a regular quorum independently of stray and occasional visitors. Beside, as the Talmud declares, "When the Holy One, blessed be He, enters the synagogue and finds fewer than ten worshippers present His wrath is forthwith kindled."

To maintain the regular attendance of a quorum the services of the Minyan men are called in requisition. The Minyan man who helps to make up the number (Hebraic, minyan). Every worshipper at the synagogue might, of course, be so described, but the title Minyan man applies only to one whose duty it is to attend all the services, morning and evening, week day and Sunday. In return for the performance of this office he receives a small salary, which enables him to eke out a scanty livelihood. At first sight the employment of salaried worshippers may appear incongruous, but after all, the religious work, whether of minister or Minyan man, is none the less earnestly done because it is paid for. Taking the dozen or so of the London Jewish synagogue, which are incorporated as the United Synagogues, the Minyan men cost no less a sum than \$800 annually. Hence, there is at the present a growing disinclination to continue to maintain the Minyan system at all.

The Minyan man is mostly old and foreign. There are but few young or English Minyan men. As a class the Minyan men are poor, but highly respectable. To the devout old man, daily and nightly attendance at the synagogue is a pure and genuine delight. In sunshine and in storm he totters to his accustomed place, and adds his feeble voice to the general chorus of psalm and prayer. He enters the synagogue quietly, stations himself in one of the seats allotted to him and his fellow Minyan men, behind the almemzar, or reading desk, so that he is almost hidden from view of the congregation. On Monday or Thursday morning he will perhaps be called to the Law, and will stand beside the reader while the latter intones a few verses of the weekly lesson for the next Sabbath from one of the Law enshrined in the Ark. Portions of the Pentateuch are included in all the services of the synagogue, but readings from the MS. scrolls are reserved for the Sabbaths and festivals. On Mondays and Thursdays, however, which were the ancient market days, a scroll of the Law is opened, and the first section of the long lesson assigned for the following Sabbath is read to three persons—a Cohen (descendant of Aaron), a Levite and a member of the general community. To return, however, to the Minyan man. When the service is concluded he withdraws from the synagogue as noiselessly as he entered it, and betakes himself either to his business, if he has any, or to the study of the Law.

We will conclude this sketch by pointing out that only males above the age of thirteen are admissible to form the Minyan quorum. Special services for women have been occasionally held, but in general men and women pray together in the synagogue, though they occupy distinct parts of the edifice. The women, however, do not count for the quorum. Nine men and twenty women, for instance, would in the opinion of most Jewish authorities, not be a legal congregation. So soon as a boy is barmitzva (thirteen years old), he has reached his religious majority and can fulfill the ordinary liturgical functions of the Israelite. It must not be thought that the exclusion of women from certain privileges is the result of Rabbinic contempt for the sex. The Minyan disability, like many others, is due to the Jewish conception that the true function of women is to be performed in the home. "The women were addressed first by Moses," said the Midrash, "because they are so zealous in matters of religion. They are always careful to send their children to the synagogue regularly." Perhaps the Jewish communities might solve their present difficulties with the Minyan system by abolishing this disability of the women.—London Globe.

In the last ten years forty-two new chemical elements have been discovered.

SCIENTIFIC TRUTH REGARDING THE FUNCTIONS OF AN IMPORTANT ORGAN.

Of Which the Public Knows But Little—The Editor of the Scientific American: Will you permit us to make known to the public the facts we have learned during the past 8 years, concerning disorders of the human kidneys and the organs which diseased kidneys so easily break down? You are conducting a Scientific paper, and are unopposed except in favor of Truth. It is needless to say, a medical Journal of "Code" standing would admit these facts, for very obvious reasons. H. H. WARNER & CO., Proprietors of "Warner's Safe Cure."

That we may emphasize and clearly explain the relation the kidney sustains to the general health, and how much is dependent upon them, we propose, metaphorically speaking, to take one from the human body, place it in the wash-bowl before us, and examine it for the public benefit. You will imagine that we have before us a body shaped like a bean, smooth and glistening about four inches in length, two in width, and one in thickness. It ordinarily weighs in the adult male about five ounces, but is somewhat lighter in the female. A small organ, you say. But understand that the body of the average size man contains about ten quarts of blood, of which every drop passes through these filters or sieves, as they may be called, many times a day as often as we breathe, making a complete revolution in three minutes. From the blood they separate the waste material, working away steadily night and day, sleeping or waking, tireless as the heart itself, and fully of as much vital importance; removing impurities from sixty-five pints of blood each hour, or about forty-nine barrels each day, or 9,125 hogheads a year! What a wonder that the kidneys can last any length of time under this prodigious strain, treated and neglected as they are!

You will imagine the organ open lengthwise with our knife, and will roughly describe its interior. We find it to be of a reddish-brown color, soft and easily torn; filled with hundreds of little tubes, short and three-like, starting from the arteries, ending in a little tuft about midway from the outside opening; into a cavity of considerable size, which is called the pelvis or, roughly speaking, a sac, which is for the purpose of holding the water to further undergo purification before it passes down from here into the ureters, and so on to the outside of the body. These little tufts are the filters which do their work automatically, and right here is where the disease of the kidney first begins.

Doing the vast amount of work which they are obliged to, from the slightest irregularity in our habits, from excess of rich living, from stimulants or a thousand and one other causes which occur every day, they become somewhat weakened in their nerve force. What is the result? Congestion or stoppage of the current of blood in the small blood vessels surrounding them, which become blocked; these delicate membranes are irritated; inflammation is set up, then pus is formed, which collects in the pelvis or sac; the tubes are at first partially, and soon are totally unable to do their work. The sac goes on distending with this corruption, pressing upon the blood vessels. All this time, remember, the blood, which is entering the kidneys to be filtered, is passing through the arteries, disgusting pus, for it cannot take any other route!

Stop and think of it for a moment! Do you realize the importance, may the vital necessity, of having the kidneys in order? Can you expect when they are diseased or obstructed, no matter how little, that you can have pure blood and enjoy life? Can you be just as reasonable to expect, if a pest-house were set across Broadway and countless thousands were compelled to go through its pestilential doors, an escape from contagion and disease, as for one to expect the blood to escape pollution when constantly running through a diseased kidney?

Now, what is the result? Why, that the blood takes up and deposits this poison as it sweeps along into every organ, into every inch of muscle, tissue, flesh and bone, from your head to your feet. And when this hereditary influence or otherwise, some part of the body is weaker than another, a countless train of diseases is established, such as consumption in weak lungs, dyspepsia where the stomach is delicate, nervousness, insanity, paralysis or heart disease in those who have weak nerves.

The heart must soon feel the effects of the poison, as it requires pure blood to keep it in right action. It increases its stroke in an effort to force and compensate for the natural stasis wanting, in its endeavor to crowd the impure blood through this obstruction, causing pain, palpitation, or an out-of-breath feeling. Unnatural as this forced labor is, the heart must soon falter, becoming weaker and weaker until one day it suddenly stops, and death from apparent "heart disease" is the verdict.

But the medical profession, learned and dignified, call these diseases by high-sounding names, treat them alone, and patients die, for the arteries are carrying slow death to the affected part, constantly adding fuel brought from these suppurating, pus-laden kidneys which here in our wash-bowl are very putrefaction itself, and which should have been cured first.

But this is not all the kidneys have to do; for you must remember that each of them about seven pounds of nourishment every twenty-four hours to supply the waste of the body which is constantly going on, a waste equal to the quantity taken. This, too, the kidneys have to separate from the blood with all other decomposing matter.

But you say: "My kidneys are all right. I have no pain in the back." Mistaken man! People die of kidney disease of so bad a character that the organs are rotten, and yet they have never there had a pain nor an ache!

Why? Because the disease begins, as we have shown, in the interior of the kidney, where there are few nerves of feeling to convey the sensation of pain. Why this is so we may never know.

When you consider their great work, the delicacy of their structure, the ease with which they are deranged, can you wonder at the ill-health of our men and women? Health and long life cannot be expected when so vital an organ is impaired. No wonder some writers say we are degenerating. Don't you see the great, the extreme importance of keeping this machinery in working order? Could the finest engine do even a fractional part of this work, without attention from the engineer? Don't you see how dangerous this hidden disease is? It is lurking about us constantly, without giving any indication of its presence.

The most skillful physicians cannot detect it at times, for the kidneys themselves cannot be examined by any means we have at our command. Even an analysis of the water, chemically and microscopically, reveals nothing definite in many cases, even when the kidneys are fairly broken down.

CONFLICTS ON THE CONGO.

THE DANGERS OF EXPLORATION IN AFRICAN WILDS.

One Traveler Has Fifteen Battles With Native Tribes—Scared by Steam Whistles—Forts in Trees.

Not a few conflicts with the natives have occurred during recent explorations in Africa. In the Congo valley especially, among tribes that have never seen white men until within the last year and a half, the intruding Europeans have been gaged with showers of arrows. Many of the hostiles when they have come to know something about their unwelcome visitors have become their friends, and many a skirmish with the blacks might have been avoided altogether had the explorers the tact and patience of Livingstone.

The deck of the little missionary steamer Peace, which has made its way up more of the large tributaries of the great river than all the rest of the Congo fleet, is protected by an arrow-proof wire netting, within which Mr. Grenfell has more than one occasion sat serenely, scarcely noticing the poisoned arrows that natives, hidden in the grass on shore have harmlessly launched against the netting. When one tribe far up the Mobangi river saw the little craft puffing her way up stream all the men, women, and children deserted their huts and took refuge in fortlets which they had built in the branches of tall, straight trees. There were no branches within about thirty feet of the ground, and the natives reached their fortlets by means of rope ladders, securing their retreat by pulling the ladders up after them. From these perches in the air they sent their showers of arrows against the sides of the steamer, which went on its way after Mr. Grenfell had vainly tried to enter into a parley with the excited aborigines.

Mr. Grenfell has generally made friends of the new tribes he has met, and he is one of the few Congo travelers who have not been tempted by any provocation to resort to firearms. Several tribes that attacked him on his way up rivers, hearing of his friendliness from other natives, have heartily welcomed him when he came back.

Lieutenant Kund, of the last German expedition, had fifteen fights last year with the natives in the vicinity of the Sankuru River, south of the Congo. His work in an entirely new region added a good deal to geographical knowledge, but the fact that he fought his way through the country detracts from the lustre of his achievements. He asserts, however, that he did all he could to conciliate his enemies, and that he never resorted to firearms except in self-defense. The weapons of the natives were flint guns, bows and arrows, and a number of his followers were killed. Some days, Lieutenant Kund says, he rarely saw a native, but he could hear incessantly the beating of their drums and the war rattles of their priests. In one fight Kund was struck by three arrows, which were cut out with a razor by his white companion. He reached Stanley Pool suffering from wounds.

Some lucky incident has now and then saved recent explorers from serious trouble. When Dr. Buchner reached the Kuango River early last year, a large force of natives advanced to attack his little party. Just as they were poisoning their spears Buchner shouted that he was a friend of Bula Matari. Instantly every arm dropped, and the party was allowed to go on its way unmolested. Bula Matari is the name by which Stanley is known in the Congo Valley. Though he had never been within a hundred miles of these natives, they feared his vengeance if they injured any of his friends. The fame of a few white men has spread from tribe to tribe throughout the greater part of savage Africa. Dr. Holub says, for instance, that in a part of the Zambesi Valley never before visited by a white man he was asked if he knew Dr. Livingstone.

Sir Francis de Winton says the natives stand in great awe of steamboats when they first see them, and that to whistle or blow off steam stampedes an entire village. Sometimes Mr. Grenfell has been mistaken for a ghost, and nearly all the natives have taken to the woods until he has convinced the few who dared to face him that he ate and slept as they did and was a man like themselves. For several days on the Mobangi he and his party nearly starved, the natives refusing to sell him food, as they thought him a supernatural being, and were afraid to communicate with him.

The Congo State Government decided last year to punish all natives who attacked its agents. Early this year accordingly half a dozen large villages on the upper Congo were burned, and their inhabitants driven into the woods in retaliation for injuries inflicted upon the whites.—New York Sun.

A Mammoth Moose Killed.

For several years it has been known to the sportsmen of the vicinity that the Rangeley Lake region. It has been the ambition of all the hunters to shoot this monarch of the forest, which has been distinguished of late years by the name of Jumbo. Several hunters have succeeded in getting sight of the moose, and he has many times been fired at. Some of the backwoodsmen asserted that the old fellow must carry pounds of lead in his body, but that he had a charmed life and could not be killed. A gentleman who has just returned from the Rangeley region, told a representative of the Press that the old moose had at last met his end. He was shot by Elmer Thomas, a noted guide, and captain of a steamer on Kennebec Lake. The great moose stands 184 hands high, and weighs from 800 to 1,000 pounds. His antlers are said to be immense, and Mr. Thomas has been offered \$75 for them and the head. The moose must have been many years old, and is probably the largest ever shot in Maine.—Portland (Me.) Press.

The Baroness Burdett-Coutts advises young men who wish to economize to get married.

Buckingham's dye for the Whiskers is easily applied, and colors brown or black. The prompt use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral will often prevent serious Whooping Cough.

It is foolish to try to live on past experience. It is very dangerous, if not a fatal habit, to judge ourselves to be safe because of something that we felt or did twenty years ago.—Egbertson.

At the masquerade ball in Adin last week, St. Jacob's Oil took the first prize. Nothing strange in this, as it is highly prized in every family where used—especially in ours. Hister, Cal., Mountain Tribune.

At last accounts the election of Speaker Carlisle was in doubt; also that of Congressman Morrison of Illinois.

Mr. Geo. Deuterman, New York city, suffered nearly a month with a severe cough, and having tried several remedies without relief, finally used Red Star Cough Cure which, he says, proved "speedy and effectual."

At castle Garden, New York, 530 emigrants from Europe were landed one day last week. On Wednesday of the same week 400 Italians came over in one steamer. Another steamer from Glasgow, Scotland landed 250 steerage passengers.

Daughters, Wives and Mothers. Sent for Pamphlet on Female Diseases, free, securely sealed. Dr. J. B. Marchesi, Utica, N.Y.

The public debt reduction during October was \$12,000,000.

We Appeal to Experience. For a long time we steadily refused to publish testimonials, believing that, in the opinion of the public generally, the great majority were manufactured to order by unprincipled parties as a means of disposing of their worthless preparations.

Let this view of the case be to a certain extent true, there can be no doubt. At last, several years ago, we came to the conclusion that every intelligent person can readily discriminate between spurious and bona fide testimonials, and determined to use as advertisements a few of the many hundreds of unsolicited certificates in our possession.

In doing this, we published them as nearly as possible in the exact language used by our correspondents, only changing the phraseology in some cases, so as to compress them into a smaller space than they would otherwise occupy, but without in the least exaggerating or destroying the meaning of the writers.

We are glad to say that our final conclusion was a correct one,—that a letter recommending the having true merit finds favor with the people.

The original of every testimonial published by us is on file in our office, an inspection of which will prove to the most skeptical that our assertion made above, that only the facts are given as they appear therein, is true. But it would be very inconvenient, if not impossible, for all our friends to call on us for that purpose, we invite those who doubt (if there be such) to correspond with any of the parties whose names are signed to our testimonials, and ask them if we have made any misstatements, so far as their knowledge extends, in this article. In other words, if we have not published their letters as nearly verbatim as possible.

Very respectfully, E. T. HAZELTINE, Proprietor Pils' Cure for Consumption, and Pils' Remedy for Catarrh.

We append a recent letter, which came to us entirely unsolicited, with permission to publish it: DAYTON, Ohio, Jan. 12, 1886.

You may add my testimony as to the merits of Pils' Cure for Consumption. I feel a severe cold last February, which settled on my lungs, they became aggravated and were so painful that I had no rest for two days and nights. I got a bottle of Pils' Cure for Consumption, and was relieved by the time I had taken half of it. Since that time I have kept Pils' Cure in the house, and use it as a preventive, both for lung troubles and colds, for which I can recommend it as the best medicine I ever used; and that is saying a great deal, for I have used at least twenty others, besides about as many physicians' prescriptions. Pils' Cure for Consumption has never failed to give me relief in my family. A. J. GRUBB, 37 Springfield St.

It is contemplated in Mexico to change the Presidential term from 4 to 6 years.

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If you have tumor, (or tumor symptoms) Cancer or cancer symptoms, Scrofula, Erysipelas, Salt-Rheum, Chronic Weakness, Nervousness or other complaints—Dr. Kilmer's FEMALE REMEDY corrects and cures.

It is reported that 12 Russian war vessels have left the Climen for Varna.

Prize Stories. The Youth's Companion maintains its reputation for publishing the best Serial and Short Stories, as well as striking articles and news. The next volume will contain the six prize stories selected as the best from over 5,000 manuscripts sent in for competition. The first Serial Story to appear, beginning in January, will be "Blind Brother," in eight chapters, fully illustrated. Every one will want to read it. It \$1.75 is sent now, it will pay for the paper to January, 1886.

Violent storms prevailed throughout Scotland on Wednesday of last week.

Two 1866 Gold Medals. Messrs. Mason & Hamlin again have the distinguished honor of having been awarded the highest gold medals over all exhibitors, American and European, both at Edinburgh and at Liverpool, the two most important exhibitions of the year 1886. Since the first great Paris Exhibition of 1867, the Mason & Hamlin Organs have invariably received the highest honors at all great world's exhibitions.

The Bulgarian question has not been settled yet.

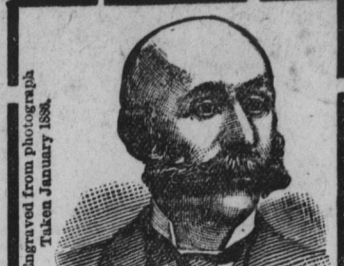
The best cough medicine is Pils' Cure for Consumption. Sold everywhere. 25c.

For cold in the head Ely's Cream Balm works like magic. It cures me of catarrh and restores the sense of smell.—E. H. Sherwood, Banker Elizabeth, N. Y.

A particle is applied into each nostril and is absorbed in five or six seconds by the mucous membrane. Sold by druggists. Send for circular. ELY BROTHERS, Druggists, Oswego, N. Y.

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