MARRIAGE BROKERS OF NEW YORK CITY

Methods of Schatchens, Straight and Crooked, Among Girls of the Yiddish Quarter.

ARE A MIGHTY POWER FOR GOOD AND EVIL

How They Ply Their Trade Among the Innocent Young Jewish Maidens of the East Side—Swindlers and Their Subtle Methods Described.

ancient and picturesque trade along prey of the schatchen. the modern lines of commercial America, but withal he remains the schatchen-the matchmaker, the trafficker after all, for when the schatchen is in young men and maidens, the inde- "on the level," and "plays a straight fatigable, serene, obsequious, popular game," his office may be a most useful, marriage broker.

seller of lives.

"Busines: Frokers."

In older days and older lands the One and all of these girls, whom we schatchen wore the dull red and see passing and repassing on all sides. green and russet robes of the orient, wish husbands. They save their earnhe jingled with chains and ornaments, ings for the purpose of massing a dot or slipped on silent feet into the adequate to make a good showing dwellings of the east; in this city he with the schatchen and win a satisfachas a card printed stating that he tory mate. There is not a girl among deals in real estate, and is also a them who will not go to the schatchen "business broker."

"Business broker" means but one there.

New York.—On the great East side | about her throat. Only one in 30 of this wonderful metropolis, where wears a hat. They move quickly, the innocent foreigner naturally drafts casting swift glances, half shy, half on his arrival in America, to seek his bold, at the men they pass. Their brother countryman, the schatchen lives are spent in shops and factories. finds a rich field for plying his trade. gaining a meager living. They never The schatchen (pronounced shot- come in contact with men; they have ken), better known as marriage no time. Romance has no place in broker, is one of the most curious sur | their cramped, crushed destinies. Love vivals of ancient orientalism which is not known in their hearts, any one may find in many a day's travel. | more than joy is known to their lives. He is a busy, prosperous man, with They are the plodders, the workers a good business and a large following the women whom the gods have for of clients, and he has developed his gotten. And these are the natural

Advantages of the System. Perhaps prey is the wrong word, valuable and beneficial one, and often In the heart of the "rogues' dis- he carries away from a Yiddish wedtrict," where the criminals of all ding the good wishes of the two conclasses are wont to gather, is where tented young persons whom he has the schatchen finds his best work- united. The legitimate schatchen is a ground. Here it is that he plies his necessary factor in Yiddish life of the trade and wins his gains, rightful or lower strata. Without him these otherwise. And here it is that his girls would find no husbands, and the good faith brings a queer, pathetic, men of the vicinity would go to other manufactured happiness, even as his districts for their wives. Also, there treachery brings suffering and shame. would be much more immorality. The For good or for ill, he is a curious and schatchen forestalls the natural matmighty power in the Yiddish quarter, ing proclivities of young people and thus schatchen, agent of matrimony, ties up his clients in pairs, firm and broker in men and women, buyer and fast with knots that hold the couples in comfortable bondage for good and

in time, if she has not already been

thing in the part of town particu- There is a young couple. She is ularly affected by the schatchen, dressed in her best, and he looks in-Everyone knows what his business is, tensely sheepish. They have just met and he carries on an excellent trade. each other through the schatchen. In The schatchen is almost invariably a week they will be man and wife. It of one type. He is not very tall; he is sounds risky, does it not? Yet they bearded; patriarchal and intensely will tell you down here that there is Yiddish. He walks silently and about the same percentage of happiwatches every chance passerby with ness in these queer broker manufaceyes that are both furtive and keen. tured marriages as in unions where He slips in and out of places almost choice, romance, and other considerawithout making his presence felt. tions have a part. That man over When he speaks it is with a marked there carrying a baby, and looking



desire to please, but with strangers he | rather proud of it at that, was maris cautious and slow of tongue. He has no regular office as a rule, but is apt to use upon his card the there, who was recently deserted by writes Prof. W. Ripper, in Technics address and telephone number of some her husband, and is now begging pen. If we are not clear and precise it is influential friend—the alderman of nies on the sidewalk. his district, or, if all else fail, the biggest saloon keeper of the neighbor- class of schatchens—the men whose finished, than we are ourselves—probhood. He slides in and out of his praitice of their trade makes them a ably much less so. We must have no adopted headquarters by day and night, insinuating himself into conver- ill-gotten gains come to about quad- ject, but they must be crystallized and sational groups or listening sharply to ruple what the honest schatchen makes definite. These qualities of our the talk of others about him.

Types of His Clients. His clients are practically all Yiddish. A Jewish schatchen would never little talked about until lately. Their independent thought on the subject for trust a Gentile sufficiently to have trade has been so secret, their pre- ourselves, of looking at it from many with him or her business dealings of cautions so complete, and their "team points of view, and thus satisfying so delicate and intimate a nature. The work" so remarkable that they have ourselves and those who listen to us type? Come with me to Riverton operated almost entirely unobserved, that we thoroughly understand what street, and stand on the corner where Now and then the complaint of some we are talking about. It clears one's Norfolk crosses it. Watch the girls deserted wife has started the police own mind in thinking out a subject to had a living parcel committed to them. go by. They are pretty in a gentle upon a scent which seemed bound to talk it over with a colleague, or to and promptly and safely forwarded it foreign way. They wear their hair lead to new and important discoveries, write out a statement of it, or to diclow on their necks and very loosely ar- but it was usually found to "end in tate it to a shorthand writer. Having in the island of Guernsey wished to go ranged. One and all have white worst- squirrel tracks or run up a tree." ed shawls wrapped about their slightly bent shoulders. Their figures are full, to arrest or convict a "swindling to say it. The first essential is to speak ingly presented himself at the post their steps heavy. They have the hall-schatchen," as the police call them. distinctly, then to be natural, straight-office and asked to be sent as a parmarks of the working woman, the The police have been at work on the forward, lucid; neither to strive after cel. He was accepted as mailable. A patient faces and stooping backs.

ried through a schatchen. So, also, was that pathetic-looking woman over

TYPES OF PROFESSIONAL

Her case brings us to the other menace to the community, and whose vague and misty ideas about the subby his legitimate business.

The Crooked Schatchens. These crooked schatchens have been as the result of effort, of careful and

beast of burden writ large upon their overthrow of several for years, but the effect nor to exaggerate, but to give tag was attached to him and a messen game is a long and arduous one, and, the impression that we are ourselves One in seven has a bright ribbon in as one young detective declared, "it convinced of the cogency and force of postage charged was five shillings and her hair or a string of colored beads would take the entire time of the force our own contention.

if you wanted to put the thing through son more forcibly illustrated.

The swindling schatchen has two and girls together as possible, ask- better. ing a commission for his services. The men are always picked from his own

field of activity. leg prepared to marry as many womcase the marriage broker is less courageous, and hides his nefarious trade behind the screen of some legitimate and blatently advertised business.

Employment Agencies. The favorite cloak of these schatchens is an "employment agency." They have large signs, front offices, desks, ledgers, and all the costnest

to the exclusion of every other case walk of life is the glass-bouse to-

The men who belong to the bands and lend themselves to the vile possible methods of procedure. It ie- schemes for betraying and robbing pends upon his nerve as to which he young girls are all of a peculiar type. adopts. If he be a brazen specimen, Shifty eyes, weak chins, evil mouths he will advertise himself frankly as -they look and are ready for any job a schatchen, and bring as many men that may offer itself—the lower the

Escape Comparatively Easy. But no crook has ever been so careband, and the same man will marry less as to prepare a job without first and rob half a dozen girls before he ararnging to "get away." Many of decides to leave town and try a new the "employment agents" have maps of the city with the "get aways" all duly The other method is more subtle. marked. The city is so large, and the and infinitely more dangerous. Here, districts are so distinct and separate, again, we find the band, the swinding that whenever he finds it too warm broker, the trusting girl and the black- in one locality, he simply moves on to another, and all traces of him is en as he can conveniently pauperize in lost. The beforementioned map has a limited space of time. But in this estimates of population in various districts, and all sorts of valuable information. Its usefulness in an employment agency seemed rather obscure, but perhaps the agents are persons who like to be well informed on all subjects.

One Happy Marriage. But all weddings brought about by the old schatchens are not unhappy. One occurred recently in the Yiddish To them come girls in search of quarter which was arranged by an old work-most of them foreigners just patriarch, and the bride and bridefrom the other side. The girls' names groom looked as happy as any young



are estimated, and the wily employ- lock could look. ment agent talks matrimony, the comlife into the girls' ears.

ings are taken away, and immediately tirely without funds. They may apagent? He knew nothing about the young person to another.

Bands Work in Unison. As has been said before, the "team work," or concerted action, of these matrimonial bands is rather extraordinary. The interdependence of the members is of necessity tremendous, and the men all stand in with one another so successfully as to drive the police and the plain-clothes men irantic. The best chance for the force comes when some one man, to save and square himself, "peaches" on another, and so destroys a little of that of crooks.

Sometimes, of course, a broker cheats the broker and fails to give up the promised share of the plunder may be readily be imagined, in no old schatchen.

Business Qualities.

to success in modern business life;

but there is none of more importance

to a man holding a position of respon-

sibility than the power to make a

plain, straightforward, business-like

statement, either by speech or in writ-

ing. The quality of fluency is not so

much what is required as the qualities

of accuracy and clearness, definite-

ness and brevity, tact and judgment

certain that those who listen to us

will be no more clear, when we have

thought and speech, however, cannot

be left to chance. They are attended

There are many qualities necessary

are entered, their looks and savings couple entering the holy bonds of wed-

The little bride was as pretty as a forts of home and being settled for colored lithograph, and her veil stood out like a frost-covered lamp shade The girls who are amenable to the from the white flowers on her small agent's reasoning find husbands speed- black head. The bridegroom wore a ily for the coming, their small earn- black suit and a tall silk hat, and smiled and perspired with equal proafterward they are deserted and en- fusion all through the evening. There were pretty girls with curly pompapeal to the police, but the husbands dours and little hooked noses, and emhave gone, and who can touch the barrassed youths, and patriarchs, and stout, aquiline matrons. And there man's disreputable character, of was music, with a great deal of drum course, and had nothing to do with effect, and dancing, all quadrilles of a the matter beyond introducing one peculiarly wooden and seemingly joyous nature, and there were strange things to eat and drink, and a complete absence of oxygen in the room.

When the ceremony began the bride and bridegroom and rabbi stood under a gorgeous fringed canopy, with long poles held over their heads by some men. The rabbi talked for a long time in Yiddish—the service took three-quarters of an hour-and everyone wept, especially the bride's mother, dear soul, who bade fair to dissolve in tears. Then the pretty bride walked seven times around her husband-the perfect harmony in the organization symbolism is obscure and has been forgotten by most Hebrews. . And finally, in a little hush that was rather solone of his men, or a man goes back on emn, on the whole, a wine glass was flung upon the floor for good luck. The ob- little tinkle of splintered glass soundtatined from the newest wife, but this ed like a tiny chime of bells. So they does not help the police. No com- were married-happily, if one may plaint will be made, of course, for, as trust their faces-and all through the

Picture Post-Cards. Picture post-cards have become a nuisance. The originals were evolved in Germany. Some are nasty, some vile, some salacious, some profane—all vulgar and inane. This country is following suit rapidly. The post office authorities are helpless, says the New York Press, as any particularly objectionable card may be inclosed in an envelope and mailed. On the continent of Europe extra stamp charges constitute one of the evils of the craze. Unable, as a majority of the tourists are, to read the inscriptions printed on the cards in the language of the particular country in which they may be traveling, they fail to see that nothing beyond the address is allowed if the card is intended for a foreign destination unless extra postage is paid. The result is that the sender writes: "Another for your collection," "Having a ripping time," "Remember me to the "Have one on me.' 'etc. When gang." the card arrives the recipient pays the extra postage and says things about the idiocy of picture post-card senders.

Man Was Mailed. The English postal authorities lately decided what to say, and having prop- to the neighboring island of Sark as Even now it is next to impossible erly arranged it, the last point is how expeditiously as possible. He accordger detailed to go with him. The

OUTLOOK TANKANY TO WIN BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

SOCIALISTS MAKE GAINS.

Jerome a Platform Independent of All Bosses-The Real Jerome-New Hotel Cannot Buy



matter who killed it, the fact remains. The republicans and the Citizens Unionists bandy angry words about it, but it is dead. On the surface the outlook is that Tammany should win by a of a trust company in Syracuse and huge majority. Her legions are confident. They are already in fancy portioning the offices for four years and the spending of \$800,000,000 in taxes and bonds.

Of course they are safe enough so far as the republicans are concerned, Even Mr. Roosevelt's great vote in the city last year came far short of Judge Parker's. Ordinarily speaking, a realls out a feeble vote. Tracy, republican, ran far behind Low, citizens union, in 1897; getting in fact, though he was an excellent candidate, but 19 per cent. of the vote. Mr. Roosevelt himself longer ago ran third to Abram S. Hewitt and Henry George.

The uncertainty lies in the new parties. What effect the municipal league may have upon public opinion, how much effect Hearst's teachings through his widely circulated newspapers may have had-who knows? One thing we do know. The socialists, in spite of the division in their ranks, have made rapid progress. They polled something like 50,000 votes for governor last year and their orators were already busy on every street corner a month ago talking to men whom the amazing revelations of insurance corruption and its alliance with political corruption have now. made ready to listen to strong doctrine. It is reasonably safe to predict many districts.

gives Boss Murphy disquiet. I cannot say that it gives him much anxiety. ulation at the country districts's ex-

The Jerome Candidacy.

furnished by William Travis Jerome, the nervy district attorney. who is "running stump" on a platform of independence of all bosses Mr. Jerome is nominated by peknow how many

names will grace his petitions, because the time of filing is not expired. But the names have been taken with formal oath before notaries at his downtown office in the heart of the East side, at newspaper offices, at a prominent hotel and in other places.

So much has been said about Jerome that even during his life fiction builds legends about him. To the hero-wor shiper he is a youthful, slender figure leading the fray when a gambling house is raided, strong, swift, agile, a Roland out of romance. To his enemies he is a "dope fiend," smoking cigarettes, dreaming dreams, constantly promising what he never performs, playing to the galleries.

The real man Jerome is not in the least like either picture. He is no more youthful in appearance than Mayor McClellan: time and care have graven lines on both faces. So far from being flighty and fitful, he has reformed the district attorney's office until it moves like clockwork and swiftly grist of a city's crime, where of old delas and favoritism and neglect held sway. As for his personal habits, he smokes as much as some other men. takes a drink when he feels like it and is on friendly terms with many Tammany district leaders, whom he likes

and who like him. Jerome will have more fun than anyone else in the campaign. He is the only public speaker in New York who says just what comes into his head, timers. The present tenderloin, exno matter waom it hits. It was no when in 1901 he spoke out in meeting concerning Mr. Platt, who was supporting his ticaet; his confreres were aghast at the "indiscretion;" but the people elected the ticket.

Platt, Odell and Higgins.

R. PLATT returns from his western trip with a novel grievance against Gov. Higgins. Mr. Platt has just moved into the new Hotel Gotham across the street from the St. Regis, that much advertised place which was for six months the finest in New

York. The new hotel man has been forced to open without a liquor license, because his poems."-Cleveland Leader.

front door is within 200 feet of a the necessary release. The St. Regis cause, being opposed in its efforts to quench thirst by householders in the vicinity. In the end the St. Regis bought up enough houses to quiet the legal bar to its bar. The new hotel

cannot buy up the church. Last winter a bill was before the legislature enabling the hotel to get a liquor license without the consent of the church, but at the last minute, according to Mr. Platt, Gov. Higgins having his eyes on the rural constituencies, vetoed the bill. Now, the exboss is down upon him. There were might seem as if jealousies, too, connected with the in-George McClellan surance investigation. Each of the had a walk-over to three statesmen had personal friends mayor of New is best off in this respect. The very York until it be- neglectful superintendent of banks is absting.

Mr. mendricks is a signal example of Fush ball, which is used, is six feet in as a door nail. No the folly of taking things for granted. He is an honest man, a wealthy man, to whom graft would have no temptation, and indeed no suspicion of graft trusted by the citizens of that town, where he is the local boss. But in his department, where he has labored by deputy for six years, long enough to know what was going on, the most gigantic financial scandal of the day is being developed. It is so gigantic that no policial power is strong enough to choke of entirely. Gov. Higgins is diameter and weighs about 50 pounds. himsel. a man of the Hendricks type, The game is played on a ring, which is publican candidate for the mayoralty rich, personally honest, but not an in- marked off every two or five yards as stinctive and resolute reformer.

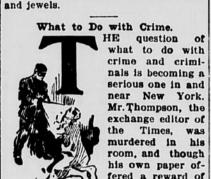
An Insurance Wedding. WO men in the inare taking things easily. They are Henry Rogers Winthrop and James liszen Hyde. The former appeared as a principal latter as an usher. in the first smart wedding of the season, that of Mr. Winthrop and Miss

Alice Babcock. which was otherwise notable as illustrating the baronial state in which wealthy American families do things

was made long before his time. As And of course it is a sorry outlook for the manager of the Equitable's finance the city when a boss like Murphy is committee he was Hyde's righthand satisfied. It is a sorry outlook for the man in vast financial transactions of a democratic party in the state, also, for semi-shady character before he was far as the city grows tremendously in pop- out of his teens, and no doubt intoxi-

Very different is his case from that he was wealthy to begin with; more directors and associates who robbed the Equitable and other big companies. HE interest of the Probably not far enough to seriously campaign will be worry the new bride, who is vastly rich

in her own right. The honeymoon of the happy pair is spent in Stow house, a great baronial mansion near that of the Mackays in Roslyn. A touch of comedy is lent to the proceedings by the request of bride's family that the thousands of dollars worth of presents designed for the young couple be not sent to Stow house. It is two miles from the station tition. I do not and thieves might easily carry off a few thousand dollars' worth of plate



room, and though fered a reward of \$1,000 and the World added \$500, no trace of the murderers has been discovered. Country houses near the city, a hundred or more of which are huge in extent and rich in plunder, are almost at the mercy of city thieves, who may loot at the cost of a dollar in car fares. The city is not much better off. The growing habit of closing city houses from early spring until late fall gives the burglars a chance to spend a pleas-

the city to fill a few professional en-

gagements before the householders arrive to see what has happened in their absence. In New York the crime center has moved uptown with the growth of the city. The Five Points is now peacefully occupied with a park on one corner, a mission hard by and business house

all about. The tenderloin of Twenty third street is forgotten, except by oldtending to Forty-second, is fast passing and the police of the Forty-seventh street station proudly proclaim that they now preside over more wickedness than any other precinct in the city. And gigantic Max Schmittberger, the gallant police inspector who arrested Mayor Van Wyck at a French ball and who won the praise of Prince Henry of Prussia on his visit to this country, is in trouble for breaking into a house without a warrant and destroy ing furniture. Jerome has broken into many a house. But he always had a warrant. He destroyed nothing but gambling tools. And he occasionally set up court in the raided saloon. Huge Max cannot do this. OWEN LANGDON.

Imagination. "Who is the most imaginative poet

you know?" "Skrauler. He refers to his verses as

church, whose members will not sign SPORTS AND had a heap of trouble from a similar ATHLETICS

A new indoor sport for the winter. which, it is claimed, far exceeds in interest and excitement any of the games played at present, is being introduced to lovers of indoor athletics. It is the game of push ball on roller skates. While comparatively new in the west the game as played according to the rules on a level field in the opening, has prospered in England and in some of the eastern colleges. The game has been played in the open usually between the halves of a football contest and also on horseback, but no one has ever attempted the sport or roller skates. The fill the office of involved in the matter. Gov. Higgins innovation is entirely the invention of a St. Louis man, and should produce as much excitement and at the same time comes a city of his friend, but Kilburn is on the edge be as fair a contest of the strength of 6,000,000 souls. As of the fray, while the superintendent two clubs as any football or hockey a matter of fact, of insurance, Mr. Hendricks, is the centhere are elements the of a storm that shows no sign of on the skill of the skater and the strength of the teams. The regulation



PUSHBALL TEAMS IN ACTION.

in football. Instead of five forwards, there are three one goal keeper instead of two, one right wing instead of two, and one left wing instead of two. surance scandals This formation is taken when the ball is put in play. After the "kick-off" the players may assume any position within the rules. In working the team which shoves the ball under the crossbar and between the goal posts is entitled to score five points. Lifting the ball or throwing the ball over the cross bar scores eight points, and a safety counts two points. The principal object of the game is to push the ball and keep it in action until such time as you can cross the opponent's goal. The opening of the play is the most spectacular part of the inovation. The ball rests in the center of the rink. At the call of the whistle the teams dash for the ball on skates. It is in this play that the fast-Winthrop is a bright young Harvard est men on skates have the advantage. man, a friend of Jimmy Hyde. If old- Strength and pushing qualities can be for them a considerable increase in er men had not built up the insurance appreciated in this play. The game as voting strength this year; and that system for his undoing, he might have developed in England presents a wide strength is greatest in heavily Tam- been an ordinarily successful man of field for trick players. It has all the susiness, with no Equitable since to excitement in formations common to This is the only circumstance that suffer for. In fact, the system which the game of Rugby, to the flying wedge he was prominent in administering, and "stealing the ball." To an extent blocking and tackling the opponent is permissable, and in this department of the game is said to rival Rugby. The game was introduced in New York in the autumn of 1902, but owing to the inability of the promoter to secure a perfect push ball, its debut was not as pense, so grows the power of Tammany in the party. In former years the Brooklyn democrats, by combining was the less excuse for Rogers in that was the less excuse for Rogers in that the more was the less excuse for Rogers in that was the less excuse fo Tammany in a humble minority. This excuse in that he less appreciated what which the roller skates will add to the son. The element of speed and skill fought only long enough to secure his share of the offices and now fights no more ten profits can be enforced from the amusing.

> According to reliable authority walking contests are to be revived by the Amateur Athletic un been no events of this kind on the championship program since 1898, when W. B. Fetterman, of the New York Athletic club, won the mile championship in 6:44 2-5 at Chicago where the meeting took place. The year previous the threemile walk was dropped, although both competitions had been on the championship list since the first meet, in 1876. It was said the walks were eliminated to make way for the highly problematical and senseless exercise of throwing the discus. This substitution was caused by the victory of an American, Robert Garrett, of Princeton, at the first revival of the Olympic games in Greece, in 1896. For awhile afterward the athletes here were simply discus mad and, of course, the A. A. U. legislature had to add it to the program at the expense of the time-honored branch of modern athletics. Now there is a reaction, for familiarity has shown that discus throwing is no real test of muscular power, for the big men who excel at the his own paper of shot, hammer and "56" cannot throw it at all. It requires a knack like fingering the boomerang, and one who cannot master this secret, no matter how strong he may be, cannot scale the thing even a respectable distance. Next fall both at the metropolitan and national conventions steps will be taken to have the walks inserted in the program. The discus will be dropped and consigned to oblivion. Many of the old-time athletes and patrons of sport in the early days favor the revival of walking, and state that it should never have been dropped.

> > Marcus Hurly, who is hailed as a wonder at Columbia, was formerly an amateur bicycle champion.

Matty Matthews, former welterweight champion of the world, is dead broke. The \$100,000 he earned during his ring career has been eaten up by fast living, and now Matty is earning \$15 a week riding a diving horse at a New

York hippodrome. Ahmed Madrali, the Turk, defeated Tom Jenkins, the American wrestler, in two straight falls at London. The match which was catch-as-catch-can style, was for \$500 a side and a purse of \$750. The Turk, who is both taller and heavier than the American, had all the advantage of the bouts. He secured the first fall in 19 minutes 48 seconds and the second in 22 minutes 46 seconds. It is understood that Madrali will challenge George Hackenschmidt, the Russian champion.

Where She Excels, Redd-Why, he says his motor boat

is the best on earth. Greene-That may be. She doesn't seem to be much good on water .- Youkers Statesman.

A Remarkable Feature. He-I like her nose. She-Why, it's crooked. "I know it. It's never in the way when you kiss her .- Yonkers States-