

FRENCH COOKS, MENU FRENCH

The Chef of the Paxton Discovers Them Vigorously. AS GOOD AMERICAN COOKS AS FRENCH

The Affection of Meaningless French o Bills of Fare Gets a Righteous Scoring-Interesting Exposure of Its Silliness.

OMAHA, Feb. 25.—To the Editor of THE BEE: An article recently appeared in an Omaha paper "About Cooking and Cooks," wherein Mr. Matthew is quoted as saying that French cooks are more economical, etc., than those of any other nationality.

That statement is incorrect. It is a well known fact among hotel proprietors and stewards that 75 per cent of French cooks (so called) are wasteful and wanton drunkards, who are constantly cursing both the waiters and kitchen assistants in their broken jargon.

Further Mr. Matthew states that good American cooks are few and far between. That is also untrue, for statistics from the different journals prove that fully 60 per cent of the hotel kitchens in the United States are in the hands of English-speaking chefs.

The traveling and resident public in general speak the English tongue here, and when sitting down to their meals with a bill of fare before them, they do not want their appetites spoiled by the sight of a "menu" and "a la" that they cannot and do not want to understand.

The French cookery that hotel cooks have been expected to know, that we have been giving higher pay for pretending to practice, originated as the pastime of kings and princes at a period when the French were inventing, and when the rich idlers had better to think about than to imitate the profligacy of the ancient Romans and

with each other and with the waiters and banquettes. It was a merit then in a cook to make a dish expensive and the extravagant character of the whole system thus stamped upon it. It still is an integral part of it and will for the adoption of an American business-like people.

Surely there is something comical in the fact that all the common cooks and all the domestic cooks and housekeepers are setting dishes "a la Flamande," "a la Provencale," "a la Flamande," and "a la Provencale," on their tables every day, and have not the remotest suspicion of the fact, while the cooks of the hotels who handle the big words without knowing what they mean, and who permit themselves to look for a small fee, on the truck he had also a large battery and two or three incandescent lamps, which he kept in the kitchen to attract the attention of the passers-by; these lamps were seen by a large number of persons, who will remember them.

Horace E. Van Rans, a member of the New York police force, on whom he served thirty-two years makes affidavit that he knew Goebel from 1863 to 1872. He remembers the electric lamps distinctly and recalls that they were used to attract attention to the passers-by.

George G. Crosby, who was general manager of the American Electric Light Company, makes affidavit that he saw Goebel's lamps in 1881. His lamps were so far superior to those of the other companies that he was making that it caused the attention of the Chicago, Prof. Charles R. Cross of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology makes affidavit that Goebel's old lamp is substantially the same as the one used by Edison.

It is said that the existence of Goebel's lamp was proved by accident by a lawyer interested in electrical matters. The attorney for the Edison company asked for the immediate issuance of a re-invention patent on the lamp, but this and took the matter under advisement.

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