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HOW TO OBTAIN IT.



**SANDOW.**

LONDON: GALE & FOLDEN, Ltd.,  
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1897

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Yours truly  
Eugene O'Neill

**STRENGTH**  
AND  
**HOW TO OBTAIN IT,**  
BY  
**EUGEN SANDOW,**  
WITH  
**ANATOMICAL CHART,**  
ILLUSTRATING THE  
**EXERCISES FOR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.**

---

ILLUSTRATED WITH SEVERAL  
FULL PAGE PORTRAITS OF THE AUTHOR.

*Reproduced from Photographs by Falk of New York,  
and Warwick Brookes of Manchester.*

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**London :**  
**GALE & POLDEN, LTD.,**  
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1897

## INTRODUCTION.

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HUNDREDS of letters reach me daily, asking "Can I become strong?" Yes; you can all become strong if you have the will and use it in the right direction. But, in the first place, you must learn to exercise your mind. This first of all lessons in physical training is of the utmost importance. For on it the whole of my system depends. If physical exercise alone and unaided could achieve the desired end, then would every one who, like the breaker of stones, has to use his muscles to earn his daily bread, become, in a popular acceptation of the term, "a strong man." The breaker of stones, however, never uses his mind. He has to get through a given amount of work, and his method is purely mechanical. Though he may use his muscles in hard work every day of the year it is unlikely that his strength will ever materially increase.

Exercise, indeed, without using the mind in conjunction with it, is of no use. It is the brain which develops the muscles. Physical exercise must be commenced by degrees, first bringing into play one muscle, then two, then three, and so on, being careful all the time to put the mind into every movement. Let me strongly advise every student to study well the anatomical chart which is published with this book. By its aid you will be able not only to receive a useful lesson in anatomy, but you will also be able to see at a glance the exercise by which each muscle may be developed.



**PART I.**  
MY SYSTEM OF PHYSICAL CULTURE.





# STRENGTH

AND

## HOW TO OBTAIN IT.



### CHAPTER I. HOW TO EXERCISE.

In commencing the system of exercises, described and illustrated by the anatomical chart, there are certain questions which every student naturally asks himself.

Probably the very first of these questions is, "What part of the day ought I to devote to these exercises?"

The answer to this question must depend on the pupil himself—on his leisure and on his inclination. Some persons find the early morning the best and most convenient time; others prefer the afternoon; and a third class, again, find that they feel best and have the most leisure at night. I do not, therefore, lay down a hard and fast rule of time. The golden rule is to select such part of the day as suits you best, always avoiding exercise immediately after meals. If possible let two hours elapse between a meal and exercise. Moreover, do not exercise just before going to bed if you find it has a tendency to keep you awake. Many of my pupils find that they sleep much better after exercise; but there are some upon whom it has a reverse effect.

If all hours are equally convenient to the pupil the very best time for training under my system is the early morning. Stripped to the waist, in the privacy of his own room, the pupil will find that he can go through the whole course of exercises in from twenty minutes to half-an-hour.

It is desirable to exercise before a looking-glass. For you

can thus follow the movements of the various muscles; and to see the muscles at work, and to mark their steady development, is itself a help and a pleasure.

If the pupil is at all weak in the legs he may, in performing the exercises, bend the knees slightly. Or he may bend them one day and stand erect another. If possible, it is better of course to stand erect. In any case he must be able to stand erect before completing the course.

What I wish to impress on delicate pupils is the desirability of progress by degrees. Many men before beginning my system of physical training have been so weak that doctors have thought little of the prospect of saving their lives. Yet to-day they are amongst the strongest. They have progressed gradually, always being careful not to undertake too much, and thus adapting the exercises to their own individual requirements. It may be mentioned also that the old as well as the young may derive great benefits from my system, though all who are over the age of fifty should moderate the exercises on the lines suggested in the table of ages for pupils between fifteen and seventeen. My exercises will also be found of considerable benefit to persons who suffer from obesity.

Pupils must not be discouraged because, after the first few days' training, they may feel stiff. It sometimes happens that a young man or woman, or perhaps a middle aged one, sets out on the course of training with the greatest enthusiasm. After the first two or three days the enthusiasm perhaps wears off. Then comes a period of stiffness, and the pupil is inclined to think that he cannot be bothered to proceed with the course. To such pupils, I would say, in all earnestness, "Don't be overcome by apparent difficulties: if you wish to succeed, go forward; never draw back." This stiffness, moreover, becomes a very pleasant feeling. You soon grow to like it; personally, indeed, it may be said that it is one of the most agreeable sensations I have ever had.

Frequently pupils ask me how long it should take them to get strong. The answer again depends on themselves, not only on their physical constitution, but also on the amount of will power they put into their exercises. As I

have said already, it is the brain that develops the muscles. Brain will do as much as dumb-bells, even more. For example, when you are sitting down reading practice contracting your muscles. Do this every time you are sitting down leisurely, and by contracting them harder and harder each time, you will find that it will have the same effect as the use of dumb-bells or any more vigorous form of exercise.

For the beginner the most difficult part of my system is so fully to concentrate his mind on his muscles as to get them absolutely under control. It will be found, however, that this control comes by degrees. The brain sends a message to the muscles; the nerves receive it and pass it on to them. With regard to the will power that is exerted it should be remembered that whilst the effect of weight lifting is to contract the muscles, the same effect is produced by merely contracting the muscles without lifting the weight.

It will be noticed that throughout my exercises I make a point of alternate movements. By this means one arm, or, as the case may be, one set of muscles, is given a momentary rest whilst the other is in motion. And thus freer circulation is gained than by performing the movements simultaneously.

Another question which pupils are constantly asking me is whether it is right for them to perspire after the exercises. The answer to this question is that it depends on the constitution of the pupil. If you perspire, it does you good; if you do not it shows that your condition is sound already. Of course, it will be understood that I am answering in this, as in other questions, for general cases. There are always exceptions.

Again, "What," it is asked, "are the general benefits of the Sandow system of physical training?"

The benefits are not, of course, confined to the visible muscular development. The inner organs of the body also share them. The liver and kidneys are kept in good order, the heart and nerves are strengthened, the brain and energy are braced up. The body, in fact, like a child, wants to be educated, and only through a series of exercises can

## STRENGTH :

this education be given. By its aid the whole body is developed, and pupils who have followed my system testify not only to their increased muscular strength but to their general health. They feel, indeed, as strong as they look.



## CHAPTER II.

## THE SECRET OF THE COLD BATH.

If the pupil is able to exercise the first thing every morning let me advise him, whilst the body is hot with the physical performance, to take a cold bath. It does not matter how much he may be perspiring; the cold bath will prove exceedingly beneficial. He must be careful, however, not to take his bath if he is out of breath. The exercises will, no doubt, quicken the heart's action; but in from three to five minutes after the series is completed the heart should be beating normally again. For persons who suffer from weak heart I would not advise a cold bath. As a general rule there is no need to ask the question, "Is my heart weak?" For if it is weak you should know it beyond a doubt. After every little exertion, though the assertion may appear paradoxical, you will feel it beating in your head.

In advising cold baths I speak, of course, for persons in the enjoyment of ordinary health. The bath should be begun in the summer and continued every morning throughout the year. In the winter, if the room is cold, light the gas and close the door. If your hair is not injuriously affected by cold water—and in many cases, I believe, cold water will be found to strengthen it—begin, as you stand over the bath, by splashing the water five-and-twenty times over your head. Next, whilst still standing over the bath, splash the water fifteen times against the chest and ten times against the heart. Then jump into the bath, going right down under the water. In the summer you may remain in the water from ten to fifteen seconds, but in the winter let it be just a jump in and out again.

The subsequent rub down with towels is popularly supposed to produce half the benefits that result from a cold bath. I have no hesitation in saying that this is a great mistake. Let me explain the reason: As you get out of the bath you rub down first one part of the body and then the

other, and thus whilst the one part is being warmed by the friction the other is getting cold. Many people who take cold baths in this way complain of touches of rheumatism, and the whole trouble arises, I believe, from different parts of the body being alternately warmed and chilled.

In order to overcome the risk of this ill effect my advice is this : Do not spend any time over rubbing yourself down. If you do not like the idea of getting into your clothes wet, just take the water off the body as quickly as you possibly can with a dry towel, jump into your clothes, and let Nature restore your circulation in her own way. You will get quite as warm by this method as by vigorously rubbing down, with the added advantage that the heat of the body will be more evenly distributed. If, owing to poor health or other exceptional causes, the circulation is not fully and promptly restored, walk briskly up and down the room. If you should still feel cold in any part of the body probably the bath is not suited to your constitution, and in that case it is not advised. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, however, the cold bath, taken as I have described, will have nothing but the most beneficial effects ; and, if taken every morning throughout the year, it is the surest preventive that I know against catching cold. On the other hand, irregularity is liable to produce cold. In short, having once begun the cold bath make a rule, summer and winter, never to leave it off.

Personally, I find the very best form of the cold bath is to get into your clothes after it without drying the body at all. For the first moment or two the sensation may not be perfectly agreeable, but afterwards you feel better and warmer for adopting this method. The damp is carried away through the clothes and no particle of wet is left.

For pupils who have not the convenience of a bath room a cold sponging down may be recommended as a substitute. In this case let two towels be taken and soaked with water. Rub the front of the body down with one, and the back with the other. This method prevents the towel from absorbing the heat from the body, and the cold sponging is thus distributed evenly over its surface. Afterwards dry the body quickly as before, letting no time be lost in getting into your clothes.

## CHAPTER III

## THE TABLES OF AGES.

From the following tables pupils of all ages will be able to see at a glance how many times the movements of each exercise illustrated by the anatomical chart should be practised daily.

In the first place, parents who desire to see their little ones grow into well developed men and women may be advised to buy their babies light wooden dumb-bells as play-things. The exercises themselves, of course, should not be attempted until the child has reached the age of six or seven. From that age onwards be guided in the amount of daily practice by the tables. In order that every reader may understand the exercises easily, the leading muscles only are mentioned on the chart.

Pupils should guard against over-exertion ; and, above all things, do not exercise violently. Keep time with each movement, and it will be found convenient to let each arm (not both arms) move once in a second. Thus, for example, the time of ten movements with each arm of the first exercise would be twenty seconds. As a general rule this time will be found to give just the exercise that is needed. Faster movements are not recommended for either young or old. Be careful also not to jerk the movements. Exercise easily and gracefully.



TABLE 1.  
 —  
 FOR CHILDREN OF BOTH SEXES,  
 BETWEEN THE AGES OF SEVEN AND TEN.

*(Using one pound dumb-bells only.)*

No. of Exercise. see Chart.)		No. of Movements with each arm.		Increase of movements. (Not to exceed 120.)
1	.....	10	.....	One every three days.
2	.....	5	.....	" " "
3	.....	5	.....	" " "
4	.....	4	.....	One every five days.
5	.....	4	.....	" " "
6	.....	10	.....	One every three days.
7	.....	6	.....	One every five days.
Exercises 8, 9, and 10 are not advised for young children.				
11	.....	5	.....	One every five days.
12	.....	5	.....	" " "
13	.....	2	.....	One every fortnight.
14	.....	5	.....	One every three days.
15	.....	3	.....	One every fortnight.
16 (boys only)		3	.....	" " "
17	.....	10	.....	One every three days.
18	.....	10	.....	" "

TABLE 2.

FOR CHILDREN OF BOTH SEXES,  
BETWEEN THE AGES OF TEN AND TWELVE.

(Using two pound dumb-bells only.)

No. of Exercise.	No. of Movements.	Increase of Movements.
1	10	One every three days.
2	5	" " "
3	5	" " "
4	4	One every five days.
5	4	" " "
6	10	One every three days.
7	6	One every five days.
Exercises 8, 9, and 10 are not advised.		
11	5	One every five days.
12	5	" " "
13	2	One every fortnight.
14	6	One every three days.
15	3	One every fortnight.
Exercises 16 and 17 are not advised.		
16 (boys only)	3	One every fortnight.
17	10	One every three days.
18	10	" " "

TABLE 3.

FOR CHILDREN OF BOTH SEXES,  
BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWELVE AND FIFTEEN.

*(Using three pound dumb-bells only.)*

No of Exercise	No. of Movements.	Increase of Movements.
1	10	..... One every three days.
2	5	..... " " "
3	5	..... " " "
4	4	..... One every five days.
5	4	..... " " "
6	10	..... One every three days.
7	6	..... One every five days.
Exercises 8, 9, and 10 are not advised.		
11	5	..... One every five days.
12	5	..... " " "
13	2	..... One every fortnight.
14	6	..... One every three days.
15	3	..... One every fortnight.
16 (boys only)	3	..... " " "
17	15	..... One every three days.
18	10	..... " " "

TABLE 4.

## FOR GIRLS.

BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIFTEEN AND SEVENTEEN.

*(Using three pound dumb-bells only.)*

No. of Exercise.	No. of Movements.	Increase of Movements.
1	15	One every three days.
2	8	„ „ „
3	6	„ „ „
4	6	One every five days.
5	4	„ „ „
6	10	One every three days.
7	8	One every five days.
<b>Exercises 8, 9, and 10 are not advised.</b>		
11	5	One every five days.
12	5	„ „ „
13	2	One every fortnight.
14	8	One every three days.
15	3	One every fortnight.
<b>Exercise 16 is not advised.</b>		
17	15	One every fortnight
18	15	„ „ three days.

TABLE 5.

## FOR BOYS,

BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIFTEEN AND SEVENTEEN.

*(Using at first four pound dumb-bells.)*

(*b* At this age boys, when they have increased the number of movements of the first exercise from 30 to 120, and all others in proportion, are recommended to go through the course again with six pound dumb-bells.

No. o Exercise.	No. of Movements.	Increase of Movements.
1	30	One every other day.
2	15	One every two days.
3	10	" "
4	8	" "
5	5	One every three days.
6	12	One every two days.
7	8	One every three days.
Exercises 8, 9, and 10 are not advised.		
11	5	One every two days.
12	5	" "
13	2	One a week.
14	15	One every other day.
15	3	One every three days.
16	3	One every fortnight.
17	25	One every three days.
18	25	" "

TABLE 6.

—  
**FOR GIRLS,**  
**OF SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS.**

*(Using four pound dumb-bells only.)*

No. of Exercise.	No. of Movements.	Increase of Movements.
1	20	One every other day.
2	10	One every two days.
3	7	" " "
4	7	" " "
5	4	One every three days.
6	10	One every two days.
7	8	One every three days.
8, 9, and 10 until the pupil feels tired.		
11	5	One every two days.
12	5	" " "
13	2	One a week.
14	10	One every three days.
15	3	" " "
Exercise 16 is not advised.		
17	20	One every three days.
18	20	" " "

TABLE 7.

## FOR YOUTHS,

## OF SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS.

*(Using at first five pound dumb-bells.)*

As recommended in Table 5, pupils when they have increased the number of movements of the first exercise from 30 to 120, and all others in proportion, are recommended to go through the course again and again, adding two pounds to the weight of the dumb-bells at the beginning of each fresh course. On the completion of the seventh or eighth course, with the dumb-bells weighing twenty pounds, I guarantee that my pupils will be as muscular as I am.

No. of Exercise.	No. of Movements.	Increase of Movements.
1	50	Five every day.
2	25	Two every day.
3	10	One every day.
4	10	One every three days.
5	5	One every two days.
6	15	" " "
7	10	" " "
8, 9, and 10 until the pupil feels tired.		
11	10	One every two days.
12	10	" " "
13	3	One every three days.
14	25	Two every day.
15	3	One every two days.
16	3	" " "
17	25	Two every day.
18	25	" ,

## CHAPTER IV.

## PRIZES FOR PUPILS.

In order to encourage those who intend to adopt my system of training, I offer for every town two sets of first, second and third prizes, in the form of cups and medals, to the pupils who can show in the one case the best development, and in the other the greatest strength. It will be possible, of course, for one pupil to win a prize in each division.

Pupils who wish to compete for these prizes should send me, without delay, their present measurements, duly witnessed by two persons, (one medical man preferred), together with their age, weight, height, and portrait (stripped to the waist).

These measurements should be written legibly on one side of a sheet of paper, in order to facilitate their entry in my book of pupils' records.

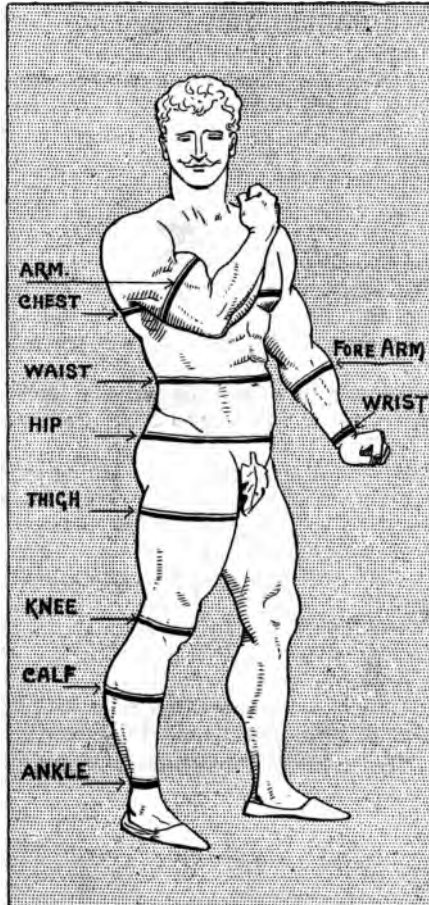
At the completion of their course of training pupils will be required to fill up and address to me the subjoined table of measurements, together with a second portrait showing their development.

It is important that the measurements should be again witnessed by at least two persons living in the same town as the pupil. There is no limit of time to the competitions. It is left to the discretion of pupils to return the table which they will find on the next page when they consider their development complete. Competitors may be guided as to the developments that are required by the letters from pupils that are published in subsequent pages.



## SANDOW'S CHART OF MEASUREMENTS.

The figure will show pupils how to take their own measurements.



*Date when training commenced.*

.....

*Date on completion of course*

.....

*Measurements then.*

*Measurements now.*

<i>Age</i> .....	.....
<i>Weight</i> .....	.....
<i>Height</i> .....	.....
<i>Neck</i> .....	.....
<i>Chest</i> .....	.....
<i>Chest Expanded</i> .....	.....
<i>Waist</i> .....	.....
<i>Hips</i> .....	.....
<i>Thigh</i> .....	.....
<i>Knee</i> .....	.....
<i>Calf</i> .....	.....
<i>Ankle</i> .....	.....
<i>Biceps</i> .....	.....
<i>Triceps</i> .....	.....
<i>Forearm</i> .....	.....
<i>Wrist</i> .....	.....

*(Signed) Name* .....

*Address* .....

.....

*\* Witnessed by*

*And by*

*Name* .....

*Name* .....

*Address* .....

*Address* .....

.....

\* Medical man preferred.

## CHAPTER VI.

## SANDOW'S SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL CULTURE.

The reader of the second part of this book will see how my professional career was thrust upon me. It came through no seeking of my own after my defeat of Samson. I accepted it partly because the offers seemed too good to be thrown away, and partly because they enabled me to gratify a wish to see something of the world. My ambition, however, was always to form and build up a system for the service of others rather than exhibit merely the results of that system in my own person. That ambition, I hope, is now to be realised, for I am founding a school of training for men, women, and children of both sexes, and in the course of time it is my desire to establish branches in every important town.

The school will be conducted entirely on my own system of physical culture. Instruction will be given by specially qualified teachers, and every exercise will be lucidly described and clearly demonstrated. The pupils themselves will have an opportunity of developing their bodies to the highest extent, and from time to time I shall personally examine them.

The instructors employed in the school will be specially trained for their work by me, so that the pupils will have the benefit of my best information and of thus learning the whole of my system exactly. In addition to the classes for men, women, and children, arrangements will be made for private lessons.

My manager and representative will be my brother-in-law, Mr. Warwick Brookes, jun., who is the best pupil I have ever had. For the past six years he has followed my system thoroughly, and the results have been remarkable. When I first met him he was exceedingly delicate. He could only walk with the aid of crutches. Gradually, however, he

~~began to improve, and under my personal supervision, by the help of my system, his strength so increased that to-day he is like a new man.~~

By the aid of this school and its branches it is hoped that something will be done substantially to aid the physical development of this and succeeding generations. Letters from past pupils testify to the great benefits which can be derived from careful training under my system, and if the training has the further advantage of individual instruction those benefits should be increased even more than by studying this book.

It is a pleasant ambition to hope by one's efforts to leave the world just a little better here and there than one found it; that ambition my pupils themselves will now be able to help me to realize.



## CHAPTER VII.

## THE SANDOW-WHITELY IMPROVED EXERCISER.

The Sandow-Whitely Improved Exerciser, of which a sketch is published, is advised for pupils in addition to dumb-bells. It can be fixed without trouble in any room, and it not only develops the muscles, but makes them flexible and supple. I have myself used the Exerciser for many years, and it may be said that it is one of the secrets of my increasing strength. It has been a great help to me in keeping my muscles in perfect condition, and, moreover, I have found it exceedingly convenient to take about with me, being much lighter than dumb-bells. Not only men and women, but children, can use this Exerciser with advantage.

When it was introduced to my notice about four years ago, I showed Professor Whitely's representative a similar exerciser of my own. He was naturally interested in it, and in the present Sandow-Whitely Improved Exerciser the best points of the two are carefully combined, special attention having been given to the rubber, webbing, and pulleys, with the view of making them as near perfection as possible. This Exerciser is in itself sufficient for ordinary exercises, and if dumb-bells are used on alternate days the advantage to the pupil will be considerable.

Accompanying every Exerciser is a chart, which will show the pupil the movements for developing the different muscles. In a previous book I referred to the desirableness of using in certain exercises a leg machine to bring the muscles of the legs into play. The Sandow-Whitely Exerciser may be used in place of that machine. Being somewhat cheaper, as well as lighter, the pupil will find it more convenient. Applications for the Exerciser may be made to my School of Physical Culture, St. James's Street, Piccadilly, London, W. The prices are as follows :—

			s.	d.
No. 1—Children's and Ladies'	...	...	12	6
„ 2—Men's	...	...	15	0
„ 3—Athletes'	...	...	20	0
„ 4—Athletes' extra heavy	...	...	25	0

## SUPPLEMENT

# Sandow's Combined Developer.

---

*Since this book has been in the hands of the Publishers I have introduced a Rubber Developer far superior to any yet invented.*

*After considerable experience and exhaustive experiments with Rubber machines, I have succeeded in inventing one which allows of a combination of Dumb Bells and Rubber Exercises.*

*Exclusive rubber exercise has not the effect of producing hard, firm, and supple muscles, therefore I have patented the detachable handles, which are simplicity itself.*

*This Developer can be so regulated as to prove equally beneficial to a weak man as to myself.*

## CHAPTER VIII.

## HEAVY WEIGHT LIFTING.

It is not my purpose in this book to give anything beyond general directions for lifting heavy weights. You can become thoroughly strong and enjoy perfect health by means of the series of exercises already described. Heavy weight lifting requires personal instruction. That instruction will be given to those who may desire it at my school of training. Under qualified instructors it may be pursued without the risk of danger.

Generally, however, it may be observed that to lift heavy weights it is desirable first to see what weight can be used without undue strain. Slowly raise this weight from your shoulder over your head ; or, if from the ground, raise it somewhat more quickly. See how many times you are able to raise the weight first selected, and when you can perform the exercise with comparative ease raising it, say, ten times, increase the weight for the next day's exercise by five pounds. Continue this increase day by day, remembering always to bring the left hand into play as well as the right.

There are many other more specific directions, but they depend so much on individual requirements that it is not wise to put the rules on paper. Each pupil must be personally instructed.

## CHAPTER IX.

## NUTRITIVE QUALITIES OF FOODS.

In the "Forum" some time ago a table was prepared by Professor W. O. Atwater to show the amount of protein and energy obtained for 25 cents in New York in food materials at different prices per pound. Although this table is not prepared for English readers, it is, I think, sufficiently clear to illustrate the variations in the amount of nutritive material in different foods. Certainly the table is useful as a guide:—

	Protein. Grams.	Energy. Calories.
Beef, sirloin, 25 cts .....	68	870
Beef, sirloin, 20 cts. ....	86	1114
Beef, neck, 8 cts. ....	218	2795
Mutton, leg, 22 cts. ....	77	1075
Salt pork (bacon), 12 cts. ....	9	7295
Chicken, 22 cts. ....	127	695
Salmon, 30 cts. ....	54	520
Salt cod, 7 cts. ....	259	1105
Oysters (40 cts. per quart), 20 cts. ....	36	325
Hen's eggs (25 cts. per dozen), 18½ cts. ...	77	910
Milk, 7 cts. per quart. 3½ cts. ....	109	2189
Cheese, whole milk, 15 cts. ....	213	3420
Butter, 30 cts. ....	none	3080
Sugar, 5 cts. ....	none	9095
Wheat flour, 3 cts. ....	418	13680
Wheat bread, 7½ cts. ....	136	4255
Corn (maize) meal, 2 cts. ....	518	20230
Oatmeal, 5 cts. ....	345	9190
Potatoes, 75 cts. per bushel, 1¼ cts. ....	163	7690
Standards for day's food for labouring man at moderate work	Voit's (German) ... 118 Writer's (American) 125	3050 3540



## **LETTERS FROM PUPILS.**

---

In the following pages will be found a selection from many thousands of letters which have been addressed to me by pupils who have already profited from my system of physical training.

23 Church Row  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1916 Limehouse  
E

M<sup>r</sup> E Sandow

Dear Sir

I write these few lines to convey to you my thanks and gratitude for the boon you have given me and the public at large. I refer to your excellent book on, how to gain health, muscle and strength. I procured one about two years ago and have studied and practised the drills incessantly since. The result is far beyond my expectations. I am nineteen years of age and small of stature being, only

five feet in height and seven stone in weight. Yet without exaggeration I can say that my strength, and muscular development would do credit to a man six feet high.


I have gained this solely by your system and cannot praise it too highly.

Another great advantage over other systems, is the small outlay required as I have obtained for a few shillings all that is necessary to train with, whereas if I had trained under another system I should have had to have made a much larger outlay for apparatus.

I enclose a list stating what I have gained in strength and muscle since I started training.

It will always be a  
great pleasure to me  
to answer any  
questions concerning  
your system likewise  
interview any one who  
might be desirous of  
seeing me.

I remain  
Yours Truly  
Thos A. Fox



## HEAVY WEIGHT LIFTING

### *Before Training*

---

<i>From ground above head</i>	{	<i>Right hand</i> .....	<i>56<sup>th</sup> dumb bell</i>
		<i>Left</i> " .....	<i>46 " " "</i>
		<i>Both hands</i> .....	<i>84. bar .</i>
<i>Holding at arms length straight from shoulder</i>	{	<i>Right hand</i> .....	<i>22<sup>th</sup> weight</i>
		<i>Left</i> " .....	<i>20 "</i>

---

### *MEASUREMENTS, Before Training*

<i>Chest</i> .....	<i>29 inches</i>
<i>    " expanded</i> .....	<i>30 "</i>
<i>Biceps</i> .....	<i>10 "</i>
<i>Forearm</i> .....	<i>9½ "</i>
<i>Thigh</i> .....	<i>16½ "</i>
<i>Calf</i> .....	<i>11 "</i>
<i>Waist</i> .....	<i>26 "</i>

## HEAVY WEIGHT LIFTING

*After Two Years training under Your System.*

<i>From ground above head</i>	{	<i>Right hand..... 100<sup>lb</sup> dumb bell</i>
		<i>Left " .....80" " "</i>
		<i>Both hands.....130. bar "</i>
<i>Holding at arms length straight from shoulder</i>	{	<i>Right hand.....40<sup>lb</sup> weight</i>
		<i>Left " .....30 " "</i>

### *MEASUREMENTS, After Training*

<i>Chest.....</i>	<i>32<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches</i>
<i>expanded.....</i>	<i>34 "</i>
<i>Biceps.....</i>	<i>13 "</i>
<i>Forearm.....</i>	<i>12 "</i>
<i>Thigh.....</i>	<i>20 "</i>
<i>Calf.....</i>	<i>13 "</i>
<i>Waist.....</i>	<i>26 "</i>

*J. J. J.*

23, Full Hill Rd.,

Aston, W.

25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1896.

Eugene Sadown, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have read your book and practised the light dumb-bell exercises for about the past 9 months the result has been most satisfactory and have increased my

Chest..... $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches      Thigh..... $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches

Biceps..... $2\frac{1}{2}$       .      Calf..... $\frac{3}{4}$       .

Forearm..... $1\frac{1}{2}$       .      Neck..... $1\frac{1}{2}$       .

•

If you could let me know where I could get even a single lesson I should be extremely obliged. I saw you for the first time last Monday night and was astounded at your immense strength especially in supporting the bridge while the chariot passed over. I do not think I ever saw the London Coach packed so before.

Yours faithfully,

W. Goodman  




100 Netherwood Road  
West Kensington Park  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 1897

Dear Sir

I write to give you my measurements as requested. I am 22 years of age, and I bought Sandow's book on Physical Training 18 months ago, since when I have been an ardent admirer & follower. If Mr. Sandow knew what a good thing he has done for the young fellows of England by inspiring them to dignify their physical powers, I think he would be more than pleased. My measurements when I started training were as follows:—

(I had done work on Gymnastic apparatus previous to that)

Present Measurements.

Chest.....	36 inches	Chest.....	40 inches
Waist.....	29 "	Waist.....	29 "
Biceps flexed.....	12½ "	Biceps flexed.....	13½ "
Forearm.....	10 "	Forearm.....	10½ "
Thigh.....	19 "	Thigh.....	20 "
Calf.....	13 "	Calf.....	13½ "

Height 5 feet 8 inches.

But my gain in strength has been more marked since following Sandow's system, than it used to. I can lift up with one hand above head 75 lbs, but am not satisfied with this, I think I ought to be able to put the 100 lbs Bell up. Can you suggest anything? as I should like to advance a bit more rapidly.

I am  
Yours faithfully  
J. F. Bartlett



Grange Place.  
 Kilmarnock 5/2/97.

Dear Sir,

With reference to an interview with you which I read yesterday in "Chums" I was rather surprised to see there that 15 minutes with the weights each day was sufficient. - Now it takes me about 2 hours to go through the heavy weights & barbell exercises as contained in your book (I have already had 3 months of the light dumbbells)

With a considerable effort I can press up 140 lbs from the shoulder with one hand - bending over to the side of course. When I started heavy weights about 6 months ago

I could not put up 60 lbs & I flattered myself I had made great progress - I go through the exercises 6 times with each hand & (take for instance the slow press with one hand from the shoulder) with a 106 lbs barbell. I do this 5 successive nights a week & rest the remaining 2. - On the 6th night I am almost as fresh as on the 1st

Your book has already done much for me, & other two fellows who practice along with me and it seems to me the public can never repay you for the good which it is doing.

Yours sincerely,  
A. W. Cameron.

Toronto Feb. 7 96

Dear Mr. Sandow,

I am  
 acknowledging the exceedingly  
 handsome Gold medal  
 given me by you for  
 efficiency in, and results  
 from the use of your  
 system of physical  
 culture. I would  
 like to state that

in four months I  
was by it enabled  
to achieve the following  
results. Increased my

Neck.....1 inch	Waist.....1½ inches
Chest.....3 inches	Thighs.....1 "
Arms.....1½ "	Calf.....1 "
Weight.....15 lbs	

I consider your system  
immeasurably superior  
to all others in every  
respect. Some of its  
more noticeable features  
aside from its unparalleled  
quickness of results are  
as follows,

It strengthens the heart  
and lungs, quickens  
the nerves and muscles—  
developes equally in  
proper proportion and  
relation one to the  
other. every part of the  
body making a perfectly  
balanced physical man.  
Again thanking you for  
the very handsome medal  
I remain

your faithful pupil

Donald M. Barton  
Teacher of Physical Culture  
Canada

Toronto  
4/2/96

Dear Mr. Sandow,

Having read your  
Book on "Physical Training" &  
carefully followed instructions  
given therein I am pleased to  
tell you I have benefited to the  
following extent in Light &  
(Heavy Dumb Bell Exercise).  
When I first commenced Six  
months ago my chest measurement  
was  $34\frac{1}{2}$  now it is  $39\frac{1}{2}$  so you  
see I have gained 2 in. I have  
gained  $\frac{1}{2}$  in forearm &  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in  
Biceps,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in Thigh & 1 in. in  
the Calf of my Leg! I am 19  
years of age & have gained  
10% in weight. (139 lbs)



The Following are my Exact  
Measurements

Chest full.....39½.  
 . empty.....35.  
 Right Biceps.....13½.  
 . Forearm.....12.  
 Left Biceps.....13½.  
 . Forearm.....12.  
 Weight.....139 lbs.  
 Age.....19 yrs.

Witnessed by  
 J. S. Safford.

W. Gibbons

170 Queen St.

I am, Sir,  
 Faithfully Yours  
 C. Schellig.  
 To Professor C. Landow

J. G. Hehen,

180 AND 182 BEAVER AVENUE,

Allegheny, Pa., Sept. 19, 1896.

Eugene Sandow, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Recognizing the great benefit your system of Physical Culture and Body Building has been to me I desire to give testimony thereof.

I was led to begin the study and practice of physical improvement by what I had read of your wonderful development and finally having witnessed your performance at the Grand Opera House, I purchased one of your books. I secured a pair of three pound Dumb Bells and began work following your instructions closely. After a few months I found the three pound Bells too light, and purchased a pair of five pounders which I am still using.

Before I began training I was round shouldered and flat chested and entirely lacked confidence in myself. To day I

*J. P. Cohen,*

188 AND 182 BEAVER AVENUE,

*Allegheny, Pa.,* \_\_\_\_\_ 189

*am a different man. My strength has increased greatly, and the following table of measurements will tell the story of my Physical development: -*

<i>Before Starting</i>	<i>After</i>
<i>Chest.....37%</i>	<i>Chest.....43%</i>
<i>Neck.....14%</i>	<i>Neck.....16%</i>
<i>Waist.....33</i>	<i>Waist.....31½</i>
<i>Hips.....36½</i>	<i>Hips.....37½</i>
<i>Thigh.....20</i>	<i>Thigh.....26%</i>
<i>Calf.....13%</i>	<i>Calf.....16%</i>
<i>Weight.....145 lbs</i>	<i>Weight.....175 lbs</i>

*In conclusion permit me to say that I fully believe your system the best, if not the only one in use now, which is calculated to bring about great results such as your own wonderful development so fully illustrates.*

*Very sincerely yours*  
*Jos. P. Cohen.*

Princeton University;

April 7, 1896

Dear Sir:

A year ago your system of physical culture came under our notice. We read the book carefully and came to the conclusion that we were grossly neglecting our bodies. It seems to be the tendency in college athletics to develop a few individuals to the neglect of those who have no special ability to admit them to the various "teams". The advantages of your system immediately appealed to us. Three of us started going through the motions; the results have sur-

passed our greatest expectations, not only because our muscles have increased very much but because our general health has improved materially. As the good results became apparent, one after another of our friends joined us until now we have quite a little class that regularly perform the exercises.

We thought you would like to hear about the progress of some of your enthusiastic pupils, and as our numbers are increasing we should be very much pleased and encouraged to receive a few suggestions from you.

We are now doing the first

exercise one hundred and fifty times, and the others in the proportions directed in your system. Shall we remain at this number or shall we continue to increase?

You may be sure that any other advice on your part would be very much appreciated

Trusting if you ever come to Princeton you will avail yourself of our hospitality we remain,

Very Truly yours,

Frank B. Curtis  
J. Deary Elliott  
E. V. de Montalvo.

Address:-

E. V. de Montalvo 9. S. E. Brown Hall.

Philadelphia Feb, 29<sup>th</sup> 1896  
1834 Race St.

Mr Sandow-

Dear Sir:

I have enclosed  
my measurements before and  
after using your method  
of Physical Development.

	Before.		After.
Neck	15½ ins		16½ ins
Chest	39	•	42
Forearm	12½	•	13
Biceps	14	•	15½
Thigh	21½	•	24
Calf	14	•	15½

I have used your method  
off and on for a year, but

in the last four months I have applied myself diligently to your method, and would respectfully say that I feel better in every way; I need say nothing of my improvement in strength & development as my measurements will speak for themselves.

In respect to your method as compared with several other methods I am conversant with, such as Swedish movements, Chest weights, etc I find that your's is superior, in that there is not the monotony, and dry, dull labor connected with it, then too, your anatomical



Charts and regular system of developing each class of muscles prove that there is more intelligence connected with it, and therefore referant nerve force is more quickly developed.

Yours Truly  
James B. Fernald  
1834 Race St  
Phila. Pa.

P.S. I also enclose Mr. Ingraham's corroboration of my above statement, he it was who took my measurements, he understands it thoroughly as he is a graduate in Anatomy he also is an artist.

29th Feb 1896.

I Charles H. Ingraham  
 certify that the  
 statements made by  
 James B. Juvenal  
 are correct in every  
 detail, as I have seen  
 him work at your  
 method of "Physical  
 Training" very vigorously.

Charles H. Ingraham  
 "Artist & Practical Anatomist"  
 2013 n 22nd St  
 Phila. Pa.



Brooklyn, N. Y., Mar. 13, 1896.

Mr. Eugene Sandow, —

Dear Sir, —

More than a year ago I took up your system of Physical Culture, and as I thought you might be interested in the benefits done by the same; I take the liberty to send you a statement of the wonderful improvement I have made; in health, strength & development by means of your system.

Age.....	21.	22
Height.....	5' 3"	5' 3"
Weight.....	123	145.
Chest normal.....	37 ins	43 ins
Waist.....	28 .	30 .
R. Upper Arm up 13 in. down 11½.		up 15½ down 14"
L. Upper Arm up 12½. down 11 "		up 15½ down 13½
R. Forearm.....	10½.	12½ ins
L. Forearm.....	10 "	12 .
R. Thigh.....	20½.	22½ .
L. Thigh.....	20½.	22 .
R. Calf.....	13½.	14¾ .
L. Calf.....	13¾.	14¾ .

I like send you a picture of myself, taken about a month ago which may give you some idea of my development.

Although always very powerful for my age and size, I am now without the least exaggeration, three times as strong in every way as when I commenced your system.

I am a sincere and honest admirer of you and your system and would be grandly pleased to be able to meet you, and give you positive evidence, that I have not enlarged in the slightest; by your own personal examination. My health has become as near perfect as could be desired.

Hoping that you will acknowledge the receipt of this letter I remain, one of your many admirers

Jose F. de Castro, —  
535 Monroe St, Brooklyn

Beaver, Penna

"Mr Eugene Sandow"

Dear Sir

I began to use  
your system of physical training  
in Nov. 9 1895 as you will see & as I  
had my measurements taken then  
& witnessed & as I have also had  
my last measurements taken &  
witnessed I enclose the same, so  
that you can see what wonders  
your system has done for me, it  
has built me up from a very weak  
& unhealthy man until I am now  
above the average athlete in development  
as my measurements will show.  
I cannot say enough for your system  
except that I wish every American  
boy would take an interest & adopt  
your system (cont.)

as it would insure our country  
 & people strong not only in body  
but in intellect & morality as well  
 and with these measurements I  
 make an application to you for a  
 medal. I now await your  
 answer to this

Yours Respectfully  
 Harvey C. Hodgins.  
 Deacon

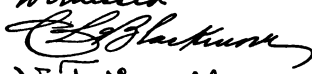
Deer, Co. Penna.

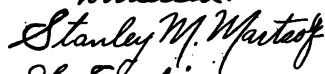

January 1 1896.



The Witnessed measurements of  
Harvey C. Hodgson.

<i>At the Beginning.</i>				<i>The Present time.</i>			
DATE. NOVEMBER 9. 1895				DECEMBER 31. 1895			
	YRS	M <sup>THS</sup>	DYS		YRS	M <sup>THS</sup>	DYS
Age.....	20	7	4	.....	20	8	26
Height.....	72 ins			.....	72 ins		
Weight.....	138 lbs			.....	148½ lbs		
Neck.....	15 ins			.....	14½ ins		
Chest Expanded.....	34½			.....	39½		
Chest Natural.....	33			.....	36		
Chest Contracted.....	32			.....	31		
Right Biceps.....	9¾			.....	11¾		
Right Forearm.....	9			.....	10½		
Right Deltoid.....	12¾			.....	13½		
Left Biceps.....	9¾			.....	11		
Left Forearm.....	8¾			.....	10½		
Left Deltoid.....	12¾			.....	13½		
Waist.....	27			.....	26		

Witnessed  
  
 W. J. Laughlin.

Witnessed.  
  
 Stanley M. Wateof  
  
 J. G. Robinson.



PRIVATE GYMNASIUM,  
PITTSBURGH.

Mr Eugen Sandow  
Dear Sir,

*Measurements under your System*  
*Compared with others*

Age.....	19	.....	17
Height.....	5. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	.....	5. 5
Weight.....	140	.....	112
Neck.....	17	.....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biceps.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chest.....	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	34
Waist.....	26	.....	25
Thigh.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	18
Calf.....	14 $\frac{3}{8}$	.....	13

*Two Years training brought from 112 lbs*  
*to 140, and from Ordinary to Extraordinary*  
*condition*

*Yours truly & Respectfully*  
*Witness* *James Mason* *Eugen Sandow*





PRIVATE GYMNASIUM,  
PITTSBURGH.

Gymnasium

Mr Eugen Sandow

Dear Sir,

Measurements under your System

---

Age.....	19	.....	17
Height.....	5' 5½"	.....	5' 4"
Weight.....	118	.....	90
Neck.....	16½	.....	12
Biceps.....	12	.....	10
Chest.....	33 - 38½	lowest to highest	30
Waist.....	26 - 28	. . .	23
Thigh.....	20	.....	16
Calf.....	13½	.....	11

One Year and half training brought from  
90lbs to 118, and from sickly to healthy and  
strong condition

Yours Very Truly  
James Mason Roy Weber

ST. LAWRENCE.

Wm. Hill Medical Faculty  
Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 1896.

Eugene Sandow Esq.  
My Dear Sir,

I noticed at the end of your valuable book (Sandow's system of training), that a medal is offered in each city or town that you visit, for anyone showing the best results after using your method.

I herewith enclose you my measurements before I became a pupil of yours, ~~and~~ also my measurements after using the above method for 8 months.

I think your system is perfect in every particular for the development of each individual muscle.

I noticed in one month a marked improvement, both in the upper & lower extremities.

I may here state that the Biceps, Semitendinosus, Semimembranosus, Gracilis, &c &c known as the Ham string muscles

were very weak before starting your system, now I have not the slightest trouble with them.

Sincerely Yours  
 of Alton L. Hanson.

Medical Student  
 Mc Gill University  
 Montreal  
 Canada



(To be filled by Medical Examiner.)

FORM B.

# McGill Gymnasium.

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

• • •

Condition of Heart OK.

Shape of Thorax Square Abdomen flat

Condition of Lungs good Skin active

" Fatty Tissue None Nervous System OK.

" Eyes OK Ears OK Nose OK

" Shoulders Square Legs Straight

" Spine straight

Habitual Posture Good

Conditions of Muscles firm

Muscles of Loins are very good Dorsum very good

" Neck " " Front Chest " "

" Abdomen " " Waist " "

" Arms " " Forearms " "

" Thighs " " Calves " "

Pulse (standing) before exercise 72 After running 180

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

## Measurements and Tests.

### Before Training

Age .....				Girth, Chest con..	33.6		
Weight .....	14.3			" Chest ex..	37.8		
Height.....	65.0			" 9th Rib con			
" sitting .....				" " ex.			
Breadth, Neck ..				" Waist. ...	30.3		
" Sh'ld'rs. ....	16.8			" Hips.....	35.5		
" Chest.....				" R. Wrist...			
" Waist.....				" R. Fo. Arm	11.2		
" Hips.....	12.8			" R. Elbow.			
Length, R. Sh. to				" R. Up. Arm	12.3		
Elb .....				" " down	11.5		
Length, R. Elb to				" L. Wrist...			
Knuckles....				" L. Fo. Arm	11.3		
Length, Left Sh.				" L. Up. Arm	10.9		
to Elb.....				down			
Length, Left Elb.				" L. Up. Arm	12.5		
to Knuckles..				up			
Length, R. Femur				" R. Thigh	21.1		
" R. Tibia.....				" R. Knee...			
" R. Foot.....				" R. Calf.	13.5		
" L. Femur.....				" R. Instep			
" L. Tibia.....				" L. Thigh..	21.1		
" L. Foot.....				" L. Knee...			
Depth, Chest.....	8.7			" L. Calf	13.8		
" Abdomen	7.9			" L. Instep.			
Girth, Neck.....	13.5			Lung Capacity	215		
				Dynamometer R.	130		
				Heart Rate.....	102		

## Measurements and Tests.

After Training.

Age .....	18.6200	Girth, Chest con.	34
Weight .....	152	" Chest ex.	39
Height .....	65.9	" 9th Rib con.	30.8
" sitting .....	34.2	" " ex.	35
Breadth, Neck .....	4.8	" Waist.	28.4
" Sh'd'rs.	18	" Hips.	36.5
" Chest.	12.4	" R. Wrist.	6.8
" Waist.	10.4	" R. Fo. Arm.	12
" Hips.	15.3	" R. Elbow.	10
Length, R. Sh. to Elb.	14.1	" R. Up. Arm.	14
Length, R. Elb to Knuckles.	14.8	" L. Wrist.	6.8
Length, Left Sh. to Elb.	14.3	" L. Fo. Arm.	12
Length, Left Elb. to Knuckles.	15	" L. Elbow.	10
Length, R. Femur	19	" L. Up. Arm.	14
" R. Tibia.	17	" R. Thigh.	21.7
" R. Foot.	9.8	" R. Knee.	4
" L. Femur	20	" R. Calf.	14.8
" L. Tibia.	16.9	" R. Instep.	9.5
" L. Foot.	9.8	" L. Thigh.	21.5
Depth, Chest.	8.5	" L. Knee.	14
" Abdomen.	7.4	" L. Calf.	14.7
Girth, Neck .....	15	" L. Instep.	9.5
		Lung Capacity.	22.5

R. TAIT MCKENZIE, M.D.,

Medical Examiner.

*Certified correct*  
*Ed. Dixon, Asst. Inst.*

### **PORTRAITS OF PUPILS.**

---

The following portraits—again only a selection—speak for themselves of the development which pupils have gained under my system of physical training.



THOS. A. FOX







C SCHELLIG.



F. HULSMANN.





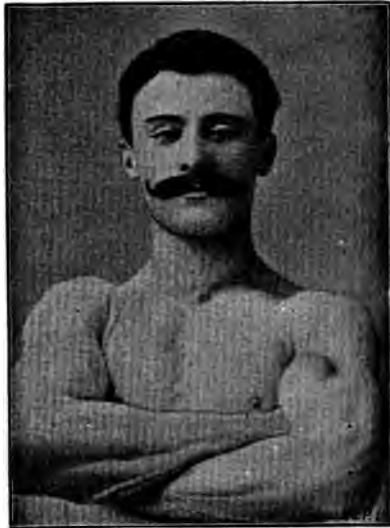
DONALD M. BARTON.



JULIUS SCHILLER.





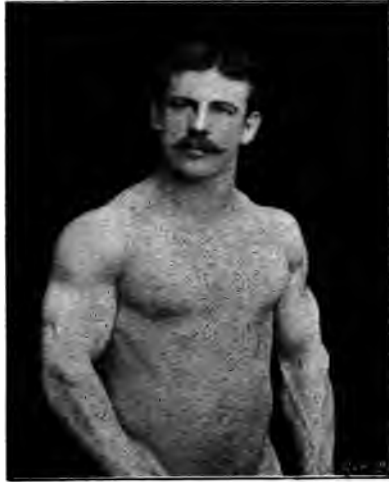


**MARTINUS SIEVEKING.**



**HARVEY C. HODGINS.**





**ANOTHER AMERICAN PUPIL.**



**MEREDITH JANVIER.**

*(Winner of the Sandow Gold Medal for State of Maryland.)* 6-2





**PART II.**  
INCIDENTS OF MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.





**Sandow at the age of ten.**



# INCIDENTS OF MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

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## CHAPTER I.

### MY CHILDHOOD AND BOYHOOD.

~~It is not necessary, as some may think, to be born strong in order to become strong. Unlike the poet, who, we are told, has to be born a poet, the strong man can make himself. As a child, I was myself exceedingly delicate. More than once, indeed, my life was despaired of. Until I was in my tenth year I scarcely knew what strength was. Then it happened that I saw it in bronze and stone. My father took me with him to Italy, and in the art galleries of Rome and Florence I was struck with admiration for the finely developed forms of the sculptured figures of the athletes of old. I remember asking my father if people were as well developed in these modern times. He pointed out that they were not, and explained that these were the figures of men who lived when might was right, when men's own arms were their weapons, and often their lives depended upon their physical strength. Moreover, they knew nothing of the modern luxuries of civilization, and, besides their training and exercise, their muscles, in the ordinary course of daily life, were always being brought prominently into play.~~

The memory of these muscular figures was ever present, and when we returned to my home in Königsberg I wanted

to become strong like them. Though I used to try my strength and attend the gymnasium, nothing came of my desire for some years.

Until I was eighteen I remained delicate. At that age I began to study anatomy. It was thus I ascertained the best means of developing the body, and invented the system of giving each individual muscle a movement, and of so arranging the form of the exercises that when some muscles are brought into play others are relaxed and left without strain.

About fifteen minutes every day was the average time devoted to special exercise at this period. It may be useful to remark that no particular form of diet was adopted. I ate and drank in the ordinary way. It may be said at once that I have no belief in special diet. There is no better guide to good living than moderation. Be moderate in all things, and you need fear no interruption in gaining strength by my system of training.









## CHAPTER II.

HOW I CAME TO LONDON AND DEFEATED  
SAMSON.

The years of my life between eighteen and twenty-one may be passed over with the remark that they saw a steady gain of strength and some occasional performances as an amateur athlete and wrestler.

In 1889 I made the acquaintance of Aubrey Hunt, the artist, who was then at Venice. One of the most charming views in the neighbourhood was to be gained from the grounds of my villa near Ledo. Naturally Mr. Hunt wished to paint it, and it was a pleasure to be able to afford him the facility. One result of our acquaintance was that Mr. Hunt painted me in the character of a gladiator in the Coliseum at Rome. It was from Mr. Hunt that I learned that Samson was offering, at the Royal Aquarium in London, £100 to the person who could perform the feats of his pupil, Cyclops, and £1,000 to anyone who could beat his own. Mr. Hunt suggested that I should accept the challenge, and it was my original intention to come to London with him. It was decided, however, that I should start without delay, and the journey to England was made on the same day that I first heard of the challenge.

Arriving in London at six o'clock in the evening, I went to Mr. Attila, a friend whom I had previously met at Brussels, to ask him to act as interpreter, for at that time I was unable to speak English. Mr. Attila not only promised his services, but gave me fresh hope by expressing his assurance that everything that Samson and his pupil could do I could accomplish easily.

It was decided that the challenge should be accepted that

night. With Mr. Albert Fleming to act as agent, we went at once to the Aquarium. When Samson appeared on the stage he gave the usual challenge. Apparently to his surprise, Mr. Fleming accepted it, asking him if he had the £100 at hand. Samson replied that there would be no difficulty about the money, but Mr. Fleming insisted on seeing it, and the note was accordingly produced. Samson was then asked if he had the £1,000 ready, and he promised that it would be forthcoming in the event of the defeat of his pupil.

The preliminary arrangements having been completed, and the note for £100 handed to Captain Molesworth, the manager of the Aquarium, I walked up to the stage. Seeing me in evening dress, the audience were unable to realise that I stood the slightest chance of defeating the strong man and his pupil. They even shouted to Samson not to heed me, but to get on with his performance. It seemed evident to them that I was unequal to the task that had been undertaken, and Samson himself burst out laughing when he saw me. The coolness and indifference of this first reception in London were not, perhaps, unnatural, for in evening dress there was nothing, as everyone said at the time, specially remarkable about my appearance. But when I took off my coat, and the people could see the muscular development, the tone of indifference changed immediately to surprise and curiosity. Samson and Cyclops themselves shared the general astonishment, though they did not allow their surprise to be shown for more than a moment, Samson being heard to remark, "We will beat him, anyhow."

The first feat which Cyclops performed was to lift over his head two weights of 56 lbs. each, lowering them with arms fully extended. This performance I repeated. Cyclops next took the bar bell, weighing 240 lbs., and with two hands lifted it from the ground over his head. When the audience saw that for the second time the same feat could be accomplished with ease they began to cheer; and I repeated the performance, after Cyclops, using only one hand.

All this time Samson, anxious of the issue, kept asking me in asides in French to let him know my history. As,

however, he did not or would not speak in German, he had to remain in ignorance.

The performance proceeded, and now Cyclops took with one hand a dumb-bell weighing 210lbs., and, extending it at arm's length, bent down and raised over his head with the other a second dumb-bell, of 100lbs. weight.

When I repeated this feat, it was thought that the challenge had been won, for this was the end of the performance for which it was understood it was offered. Mr. Fleming, accordingly, asked for the one hundred pounds, but Samson refused, saying that the whole performance would have to be repeated and continued until one of the two competitors gave in. Nothing less would satisfy him as to which of the two was the stronger. On this point the audience disagreed, and called on him to hand over the money. Appeal was made to Captain Molesworth, who, addressing the audience, promised to see fair play. He could not agree, he said, with Mr. Samson, that it was fair that the performance should be continued until one of them dropped from sheer exhaustion, but he suggested that Cyclops should introduce two fresh feats, and that if I could repeat them the money should be mine without further question.

Although the audience still maintained that the challenge had been won, I expressed, through my interpreter, perfect willingness to perform not two only, but twenty more feats should Cyclops wish to try them.

The first of the two extra feats was then taken : Cyclops lying on his back raised a weight of 240 lbs. with two men sitting on it, and when the men jumped off he himself stood up, raising the weight with him. This performance I also repeated.

Now came the final effort : At the side of the stage stood a great stone, weighing, I should think, about five hundred pounds. On this stone were secured the two 56lbs. weights. Two chairs were brought, and Cyclops, standing on them in order to get a position above the stone and its weights, raised the whole load with his middle finger some four inches above the ground.

When this performance had been repeated by me Samson acknowledged that that part of the challenge relating to

Cyclops had been won, and offered to hand over the one hundred pounds.

My interpreter explained that I had not come to London to win merely the one hundred pounds ; I had come for the greater sum, the £1,000, in fact, which had been offered to any person who should defeat Samson himself.

Samson, who was clearly surprised at the issue, replied that he was not prepared to meet me that night, and though the public disapproved of the postponement, it was eventually decided with Captain Molesworth that the test should be made on the following Saturday evening.

The eventful evening which was to decide the issue between us fell on the 2nd of November, 1889. Never, it was said, had the Royal Aquarium been so densely crowded. The people began to arrive as early as two o'clock in the afternoon. When I reached the building, in company with Captain Molesworth, Mr. Attila, and Mr. Fleming, twenty minutes before the hour announced for the challenge to be taken up, it was literally impossible to get through the crowd.

Here, at the very outset, was a difficulty of a new and an unexpected character. What was to be done? To try to get through the enormous throng in twenty minutes was obviously hopeless. Willing as the crowd might be to let us pass it was beyond their power to make way for us. We determined, therefore, to go to the stage door, and here a further difficulty presented itself. We could not gain admission. No one would open the heavy door. The man behind had received the strictest orders, we could hear him saying, as we stood impatiently outside, to prevent anyone from entering. In vain did Captain Molesworth implore him to let us through, explaining who we were. The man was obdurate. He said that he was very sorry, but he failed to recognize Captain Molesworth's voice, and he could not disobey explicit instructions.

All the time the precious minutes were flying, and the hour when the challenge was to be met had actually arrived. It was, indeed, an anxious and a trying moment. We heard afterwards that when the hour of the challenge came and Samson saw that I was not there, he

strutted up and down the stage, exclaiming: "Ah! see, he does not come. I thought he would not meet me. I will give him five minutes, nay, ten minutes more." He took out his watch, the minutes were speeding, and still Samson stood alone.

Meanwhile, resolved not to be baffled by this absurd mischance, it was determined that, as fair words would not open the door, strength should smash it open. A blow well directed, and the door was burst from its hinges. The man inside was slightly injured by this rough method, but a ten pound note served to solace his feelings and to heal his wounds. And we—well, we just managed to save the challenge by the space of half-a-minute.

The Marquis of Queensberry and Lord de Clifford were appointed judges, and they examined closely all the bars, bells, weights, and chains that were to be used in the performance. Samson first desired that I should follow him in some juggling feat with a water bottle, but the judges decided that this was not in the order of the performance. Only such tests of actual strength as Samson was in the habit of displaying could now be allowed. Samson, abiding by this decision, took a large iron bar and bent it over his calf, his arms, and his neck, just as, in a similar way, by striking it on the muscles of the arm, one may bend a poker. The thing is little more than a trick. Of course, muscle is essential to its successful performance; for, if you have no muscle, you will hit the bone, with the danger of breaking it. Such a performance, although there is a certain knack in doing it gracefully and with ease, was not difficult to follow.

Samson next took a wire cable, winding it round his chest, under his arms, and then breaking it. This feat, which is performed by inflating the lungs and at the same time contracting the muscles of the chest, I was also able to repeat.

By the third item in the display it seemed that Samson desired to leave the issue of the challenge in doubt, for it consisted in snapping a chain which encircled his arm. This armlet, which fitted Samson well enough, was for me too small. Fortunately, I was prepared for the emergency.

I had ascertained where the chain was bought, and had got the same firm to make me an armet of exactly the same strength, of a size suitable to my larger development. When I produced it, Samson at first refused to be satisfied that it would be a fair test. A representative of the firm who made it stood up in the auditorium and assured the public that it was of the same strength as that of the chain made for Samson. The judges examined it, together with the paper which testified to the equality of strength, and decided that the test would be perfectly fair and that the performance was to continue. I placed the chain on my arm and broke it.

Samson was still dissatisfied, and I made the offer that if either he or his pupil, Cyclops, could repeat my performance with a dumbbell which I had at hand, we would declare the result a draw, and he could keep his thousand pounds. The dumbbell, which was then brought on to the stage, weighed 280lbs. With one hand I lifted it up, then lay down, and finally stood up with it. After that feat I took another dumbbell, weighing about 220lbs.; with two hands I raised it to my chest, fastened some chains round my arms, and burst them asunder before releasing it.

"I have had enough of this," now exclaimed Samson. "It's all humbug, I don't call this fair play at all."

The judges, however, were sufficiently satisfied, and Mr. Fleming asked for the one thousand pounds. The reply was that it should be paid in the morning, but it remains to be added that I never received that thousand pounds. It was stated that Samson had taken his money away, and in the end I agreed to accept £350 from the management of the Aquarium in settlement of the challenge.

When we left the Aquarium after the contest the great crowd followed us cheering, and the four-wheeled cab into which we got was lifted up by these enthusiasts. The crowd cheered us all the way to my rooms in Leicester Square; newspaper men poured in to interview me; and, though I had then no intention of giving performances in public, I was induced to accept one of numerous offers of £150 a week, made by a syndicate of the members of the

Lyric Club, and I commenced an engagement at the Alhambra, giving Mr. Attila £30 a week to assist me.

I spent three months at the Alhambra and three months in the provinces, and entered into engagements for some years to come.

The reader will probably ask if special means were adopted during this and succeeding engagements to maintain my strength. The answer is very simple : The performance itself provides the necessary amount of daily training. I eat, drink, smoke and sleep quite in the ordinary way, taking care to observe in all things that guiding rule of moderation to which reference is made in the preceding chapter. I only practice, in order that grace and perfection may be attained, when some new feat is introduced. Personally, it may be added, I find that the best time for a performance is about three hours after a meal.









*EdlexPod - 1911*



## CHAPTER III.

## I MEET GOLIATH.

At the end of my first engagement in London and the provinces I went to Germany for a holiday. Driving out one day at Aachen I met a veritable giant. He was a quarryman, and he was engaged in loading stones. So huge and extraordinary was his appearance that my horse positively shied at him.

Imagine, if you can, this tremendous fellow : His head as huge and grotesque as that of any pantomime mask, with a nose the size of an ordinary fist. As for his own fist, it would have made more than three of mine, and when a five-shilling piece was placed beneath the ball of his finger believe me it was impossible to see it. So large were his boots that not only could I get both my feet into one, but I could turn entirely round inside. And yet, strangely enough, despite his immense limbs and body, he was not a particularly tall man. A little more than six feet, 6 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, in fact, was his height. His chest measurement was about eighty inches and his weight 400 lbs. He was not a fat man in proportion to his size. Quite the contrary. He was bony and muscular.

The thought occurred to me as soon as I saw him that to give him a part in a performance as a modern Goliath would be, from a popular point of view, eminently attractive. I asked him what wages he was earning. "Five marks a day," he replied. It appeared that he was given nearly double the pay of an ordinary labourer because he could lift heavier weights and load the carts more quickly. I told him that if he liked to accept an engagement with me I would give him twenty marks a day, whether he worked or not. A

German mark, as everyone knows, is equivalent to an English shilling. The giant quarryman could scarcely credit such good fortune, and eventually it was agreed that he should come to my house to talk the proposal over, and have his strength tested. When he came it was found that he could do nothing more than lift heavy weights from the floor. He had never put himself into training, and his exceptional proportions, which, under different circumstances, might have been turned to good account, were of no special use to him. However, it was settled that he should come with me, and I brought him to England.

Well do I remember our arrival at Charing Cross. The huge size of Goliath, whose real name, by the way, was Karl Westphal, attracted the most pronounced attention. It was impossible to think of taking a cab, for no cab would have held him, even if he had been able to get inside it. There was, therefore, nothing for it but to walk to my chambers, which were then in Rupert Street, Piccadilly. Thousands of people followed us the whole way, and Rupert Street was blocked. A giant, when you have got him, is rather like a white elephant. He is a rare creature, but it is difficult to know what to do with him. It would have been clearly unwise to let him go into the streets, and accordingly he had to be kept indoors. For seven or eight weeks I tried to train him, but he proved an idle fellow, and it became evident that nothing much could be done with him.

I had an engagement at that time at the Royal Music Hall, and a performance was arranged in which Goliath had to surprise me, lumbering after me across the stage, and trying to hold me in his grip.

We wrestled together, and it was his business to make himself the victor. Then, in order to finish me, he took a cannon, weighing 400 lbs., and placed it on his broad shoulders, prepared to fire. In a moment or so I returned with the clubs. It was now the turn of the giant to show alarm, and gradually he had to retire, with the cannon still on his back, into a frame of refuge. I at once climbed to the top, and getting into a position above my antagonist, I lifted him, his refuge, and his cannon, with one finger, a

few inches off the ground. During this part of the performance we fired the cannon, and the whole display was brought to a conclusion by placing my arm through a leathern belt which girt his waist, and carrying him at arm's length off the stage

What became of him after he left me I never heard. The last report was that he had carried off his own landlady, and that the two had started some sort of show together.











## CHAPTER IV.

A PRESENTATION UNDER CURIOUS  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

After my engagement at the Royal came a holiday in Paris. It was there I met a very dear school friend, whom I had not seen since I was about ten years of age. My friend's father was at this time German ambassador at Paris. The incident which followed our meeting will be better explained by prefacing the story with the statement that as boys we were great billiard players. We were continually playing at each other's houses, and, though we were such mere lads, we could even beat our fathers at the game. Nothing, therefore, was more natural than that, when we met, my friend should ask me if I was still a good player. As a matter of fact I was not in practice, but that did not deter us from deciding to try our skill. So we went to a room which he selected, and started a game. He did not know then that I had made my strength a profession; he was rather under the impression that I had followed my father's desire and studied medicine. However, the game began, and, as we talked a good deal over old times and spoke in German and played rather slowly, I suppose we unconsciously annoyed a party of Frenchmen. At any rate they made unfriendly remarks, and before we had finished our game they marked on the slate that they had engaged the table. Wishing to play again, we were not disposed to give it up to people whose manner was obviously offensive. As our right to continue was disputed the attendant was called, and it was pointed out that, according to the regulations of the establishment,

we were perfectly within our rights in playing a second game. So we played on, and whilst we were joking and laughing about old times they, it seems, thought we were making fun of their discomfiture.

When the game was finished we ordered two steaks, which were served at a table behind the players. We were still laughing over old times when one of the party came up, saying angrily, "I've had enough of your laughter ; if you don't stop be sure I'll make you."

I told him that I was very sorry that my mood offended him, and if I could not laugh at our own personal jokes I should be sorrier still. It was added that I did not wish to interfere with him, and it was suggested also that he should attend to his own game and leave us alone.

It was evident that he wished to pick a quarrel. Nor would hot words suffice him. Vowing that he must give me something to remember him by, he struck me across the face. Beneath this fresh insult I tried to remain quite calm, telling my assailant that it would be certainly better for him to take himself off and leave me alone. But at such times, when the temper is quick, good advice is not heeded ; moreover, he probably thought he had to deal with some one of poor spirit.

Whatever may have been in his mind the facts are plain : Finding that I took one blow calmly he struck me another and called me coward. My friend, who had hitherto kept quiet, now attempted to interfere, but I held him down, nearly wrenching his wrist round. The force which was exerted must have given him an idea of the strength that was ready to be used if it were needed, for looking first at his wrist and then at me, he exclaimed in English, "Why don't you knock the fellow down ?"

"So you speak English," said the Frenchman, "Why don't you get up and fight me?" With these words he struck me fiercely on the nose. The blood streamed down my clothes, which were spoilt besides by the gravy that was splashed on them in the disturbance from the dishes. My appearance must have been deplorable, and as I was that morning wearing a new suit, I lost my patience with the man. Walking slowly towards him, and then with a quick grip of

his neck and knees, I picked him up, knocked his head and knees together, and banged him down in the centre of the table. The table broke through, and he fell to the ground. You can imagine, I daresay, the scene of wreckage and consternation—the smashed table, the man dazed, lying in a heap on the floor, his friends around him open-mouthed with amazement. In the midst of this scene I sat down with my friend and smoked a cigar.

A gendarme was fetched. He entered the room and wanted to arrest me. The proprietor caught hold of him, saying “Be careful, he is an awful man, he will kill you. You must have some assistance.” Four more gendarmes were summoned, and, refusing to take me in a cab, they marched me along to the police station. Some of the friends of the man who was hurt accompanied us and explained to the authorities that the regrettable affair was not my fault. They were sorry at what had happened, and I was liberated on bail.

Meanwhile they took their injured comrade to the hospital. He was still unconscious, and in that condition he remained a day and a half. Being sincerely sorry for the injury I had caused, I called at the hospital and asked to see him, but he refused.

As soon as he recovered, which was not for some weeks, I left Paris to return to London to fulfil an engagement at the Tivoli.

One night whilst I was performing there, the porter brought me a message asking if I would step up to see a gentleman and a party of friends in a private box. When I went up I seemed to recognise the face of the person who wished to see me, but I could not recall where I had seen it before. The party invited me to take wine with them, and nothing would satisfy them but my consent to be their guest at supper.

When we reached the hotel, my host said : “I perceive, Mr. Sandow, you have only pretended that you know me. You do not really recall my identity.”

It had to be confessed that he was right.

“If you really knew me,” he proceeded, “you would probably not speak to me.”

"Why not?" I asked. "I speak to you because I seem to like you, surely that is sufficient."

"We will see," he added; "I have come a long way to see you. I have come from Paris. I am an amateur in your own line, performing feats of strength myself. Of all my friends I have the reputation of being the strongest. Having read of your performances in the French and English papers, I was determined to come to London to see you. I saw the whole programme at the Tivoli to-night, waiting impatiently for your display. When you stepped on to the stage I nearly dropped to the ground."

"Why?" I asked, growing curious.

Tears stood in his eyes, as he exclaimed earnestly, "Will you promise to forgive me, promise me that or I cannot tell you."

I told him that I did not know what I had to forgive, but at any rate I promised to forgive him in advance.

"Well," he went on, "if I had known you were Mr. Sandow I would never have struck you that blow in Paris," and then in enthusiastic French fashion he clung hold of me and kissed me on the cheek—on the cheek that he had previously smacked—before all the people.

Of course, why had I been so blind; this was my assailant of the French billiard room. All, however, was now forgiven and forgotten, and as a token of our good understanding he presented me with a handsome gold watch. To-day we are the greatest friends, and whenever I go to Paris I stay with him. He is a French Count, but for obvious reasons, not the least being that he is my friend, despite the hard knocks which came of our first meeting, it would not be fair here to disclose his name.





Giles Cotton / P



## CHAPTER V.

## THE LIVING WEIGHTS.

About this time there were many strong men. Each hall in London could boast of at least one. It was also a great weight lifting period. When I lifted my heaviest bell, 280lbs, the other strong men put out a placard stating that they were lifting 300lbs. By the time I had practised sufficiently to raise the weights I was lifting from 280lbs. to 300lbs., they came out with the statement that they were lifting 320lbs., and so their little game went on.

For my part I was determined to introduce a novelty. Henceforth, there should be actually living weights. I started, therefore, at the Tivoli with a new display, lifting a horse at arm's length above my head, and marching with it to musical accompaniment.

This was followed by a display with human dumb-bells. Taking a long bar with a large ball at each end, I placed in each ball a man, and I raised bar, balls, and men, slowly over the head. After putting them down the balls opened and the men rolled out. This performance I accomplished in order to equal the feat of lifting 300lbs. dead weight.

Further, I lifted and supported on my chest a grand pianoforte with an orchestra of eight performers on top of the instrument.

There was still a fourth feat which I performed, knowing that no one could equal it, and that was to turn a somersault whilst holding a weight of 56lbs. in each hand.

These performances I repeated in the provinces. During this tour I had the pleasure of visiting not only many of the chief cities of England, but also Edinburgh and Glasgow.



Who can fail deeply to be impressed by the grandeur and magnificence of the scenery of Scotland. Certainly I was not proof against it. No city that I have ever visited is more beautiful than Edinburgh, and the Scottish people themselves I found exceedingly kind and agreeable. It has not yet been my good fortune to visit Ireland, but I hope to go there, and I have no doubt that I shall find its people as warm-hearted as they are always represented.

At the end of my first provincial tour I returned to London to fulfil an engagement at the Palace Theatre. Here I introduced another novelty. In place of the orchestra I held three horses on my chest. These animals stood on a plank, one at each side and the third in the centre, holding the balance in a game of see-saw. Included in this performance was the feat in which a Horse Guardsman and his horse rode over me, thus completing at that time the chapter of living weights.





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## CHAPTER VI.

## ON THE "ELBE": BOUND FOR NEW YORK.

We come now to the year of the Chicago Exhibition, when I entered into a contract for an engagement in America, with Messrs Abbey, Scheffel, and Grau.

An old friend and famous pianist, Martinus Sieveking, whom I knew years before in Belgium and Holland, accompanied me to the New World. Sieveking was a brilliant artist, but as a man he was exceedingly weak and delicate. He had no powers of endurance, and it was difficult for him to remain at the piano long at a time.

"If I had only your strength," he used to say, "I think I might become almost the greatest player in the world."

I suggested that he should come with me as my guest to America, guaranteeing that in nine months or a year, under my personal supervision and training, he would grow so strong that his best friends would scarcely recognise him.

Agreeing to come, he travelled with me all through America. The result of my system and supervision was that his strength grew marvellously. Within the year, weak as he was at the start, he became the strongest of all my pupils, and the most redoubtable amateur I have ever met. The portrait which is published on an earlier page will speak for itself when you remember that a year before it was taken the sitter was a gaunt, slim, delicate figure, with narrow chest, sloping shoulders, and no muscles at all.

But this is anticipating. Let us revert for a moment to our departure from England. We sailed on the Elbe, the vessel that was afterwards wrecked. There was a good deal of bustle in getting on board, and some curiosity, I suppose,

amongst the passengers, when they saw the sailors straining beneath the weight of my luggage and apparatus, that a strong man was to sail with them. With the captain and the first engineer I became very friendly, giving them each during the voyage lessons in my system.

Somehow I used to feel that the ship we were on was a doomed vessel. I am not ordinarily superstitious, and it is not necessary to attempt to account for the feeling, but do what I would I could not shake off the dread impression that one day that ship would go down. I became so friendly with the engineer, whom I used to visit in his own cabin, that I advised him to give up his appointment and go to sea no more. But my advice was apparently impracticable, and at the end of the voyage we parted very good friends.

Some time after that, whilst I was in America, the world was startled by the news of the Elbe's disaster. My friend, the engineer, was amongst the few who were saved. He wrote me a letter telling me of the tidings. This letter touched me very deeply, and seeing that it contains a story of singular bravery it may not be inappropriate if I introduce here so much of it as I remember.

Having commented on the strange fulfilment of my prediction, he described how, when the boat was going down, the captain lashed himself to the bridge, saying he would never leave his ship. From the engineer's boat they called to him to come on, but he would not stir. Then they sent back the pilot, but still to no purpose. By the faint glimmer of a lantern he pencilled a note which he asked might be sent, if the bearer should be saved, with his heart's love to his dear wife and children. For the last time the pilot left the ship, and as the boat bore away from its now fast sinking sides the captain from the bridge, immovable from the post of duty, waved his long farewell.





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## CHAPTER VII.

## MY FIRST HOUR IN AMERICA.

First experiences are occasionally curious. You shall hear mine.

Although the day we reached New York was the hottest that had ever been known in that great country of wonderful records, no heat, however extreme, could detract from the glories of New York Harbour, certainly the finest harbour I have ever seen. Numerous people, including, of course, the ubiquitous newspaper men, came on board to welcome me, bands were playing, and there was a gay and busy time generally.

Having landed, I entered a cab. Everyone, I suppose, has a vivid recollection of his first cab in America. The independence of the American cab-driver is sublime. It is something too great for words. You can only draw a long breath—and admire it. The particular journey which I was undertaking would have been in England something considerably less than a shilling fare. Hoping to be generous I proffered the driver an equivalent in English money to two shillings. To my surprise he said, “I guess, Colonel, that’s for myself ; your fare is four dollars,” just eight times as much as I had offered. Of course, I could not argue with the man. He knew better than I, and there was nothing for it but to pay promptly what he demanded. Moreover, in America, it must be remembered, they charge, not for the drive, but for the cab.

Mr. Abbey, who met me on the boat, accompanied me to the hotel at which I was to stay. At the office his attention was called away for a moment, and I was left to the tender



mercies of the bell boy, a nigger, who was asked to show me the rooms.

"Come along, sir," the boy drawled. And along I went, making my first acquaintance with an American elevator, in which we were shot up heavenwards.

"How high are we?" I asked, as we got out.

"Oh, this is the sixteenth floor," replied the boy, in an off-hand manner, "you can see if you look down." I did look down. By Jove, the depth down that staircase was tremendous.

Having selected my apartments, the boy coolly stood beside me in my own room rolling a cigarette and lighting it in my presence. This action seemed a little impudent, but it was nothing to that which was to come. Remarking that I desired to wash, I also asked the boy if he would clean my boots.

"Clean your boots," he exclaimed, in blank astonishment, "we don't do that in America, we (speaking of course for himself and the niggers like him) don't clean boots here."

"Who then," I asked, "does clean them?"

"Oh, you must go down stairs for that." And with these words he reclined on my sofa, rolled another cigarette, and calmly smiled at me.

This was really too much for white flesh and blood to bear. I said to him sharply, "Look here, young man. I may be a stranger in this country and ignorant of some of its ways, but I know enough of Americans to be quite sure that it is not right for you to conduct yourself in this way. If you don't promptly clear off I will report you?"

But the boy was not easily to be moved. Instead of taking himself off he squared up and wanted to fight me. So I just took hold of that boy, and, testing his jacket and trousers to be sure that they would bear the strain, I swung him over the sixteenth floor staircase. And there for a few moments I held him, just to give him a view of the depth, which was so tremendous.

My word, didn't that boy shout and scream. I assured him that he was quite safe in my hand so long as it was closed, but if he ever attempted his impertinences again I would bring him to the same spot and open it. And

I reminded him that a drop through sixteen floors would not be good even for nigger boys who smoked cigarettes in private rooms and affected to be indignant at the suggestion that they should clean a visitor's boots.

The boy's cries drew a small crowd, including my guest and pianist, Martinus Sieveking, and the manager of the hotel. The manager fully agreed with the warning I gave the boy, and was profuse in his apologies, saying that such conduct from a bell boy was unprecedented.









## CHAPTER VIII.

## INCIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN TOUR.

A fortnight after my arrival in New York I commenced an engagement at the Casino, and after each performance, whilst I was still stripped to the waist, I gave lectures on anatomy and my system of physical culture in my dressing-room. These lectures were attended by many of the most notable people in America, the crowded audiences including several ladies. I demonstrated how each feat was accomplished, and let the people feel for themselves my muscles, to prove that whilst, when they were relaxed they were as soft as butter, when contracted they were as hard as steel.

I repeated at the Casino the performances that I had been giving at the Palace Theatre in London. As my engagement lengthened I grew constantly more acquainted with American people, whom, let it frankly be admitted, I liked immensely. They are wonderfully nice fellows, these Americans. The only fault that is to be found with them is the too generous length to which their hospitality is liable to go in the direction of cock-tails. They like to give you a bath of cock-tails, and if a bath should not suffice they would think nothing of making a river for you. For a moderate drinker like myself, their generosity is a little embarrassing, but as the point was emphasised that I could never have the assurance to say that I had been to America without tasting a cock-tail, I at last yielded to their persuasions, and, judging from the samples of Manhattan, Martini, and Oyster, which I tried, I am bound to confess that these drinks are exceedingly nice, and

that there is little to beat them. Another striking feature of life in America is to be found in the trotting horses. They are simply marvellous creatures, moving with the ease and almost with the speed of a railway engine.

From New York I went to Boston, where my system of physical training became very fashionable ; and after the Boston visit came Chicago, Mr. Sieveking always accom-  
panying me.

When I arrived at Chicago I went to the Trocadero, where I was to appear, and inquired for the manager. A tall slim fellow made his appearance in answer to the inquiry, and for some minutes a game of cross purposes ensued. For whilst I was not sure whether he really was the manager, he doubted whether I was the strong man whom he expected. At last, however, I ascertained that he was Mr. Ziegfeld, or at least Mr. Ziegfeld's son, and he was assured that I was Sandow. He showed me round the theatre, which was a tremendous place, with accommodation for fully six thousand people. It had been originally an armoury, and was used more for concerts than variety entertainments. Mr. Ziegfeld had taken it because his other theatre, two days before the opening of the exhibition, was burned down. At the time of my arrival it was proving too big, but, as good luck would have it, such was the popularity of my performances, the building, despite its huge size, was filled nightly.

In the exhibition grounds one morning shortly after my arrival, Mr. Ziegfeld suggested that I should drive round in one of the hand wagons.

"My dear fellow," I said, "it would never do for a strong man to be pushed round like that, what would the people say?"

"Oh, they don't know you yet," replied Mr. Ziegfeld, "you get in and try it."

It was no use for me to chaff him by saying that these wagons were more adapted to idle fellows of his slim proportions, for inside he would have me get. Who of all people in the world should come to push me round but an unfortunate hunchback. The result was that next morning the papers came out with illustrations of the ludicrous

scene, with the heading "The strong man too strong to walk."

At the termination of the World's Fair, Mr. Ziegfeld proposed that I should prolong my tour. Accepting his suggestion, and engaging him as my manager, he booked a tour for me, including all the principal cities. Throughout this tour I offered at each performance ten thousand dollars to any person who could duplicate my feats of strength or even do anything that could be said reasonably to approach them.

At St. Louis, one of the greatest beer brewing districts in the world, the challenge, I was informed, was to be accepted. The youth who was prepared to meet me, explained that he was somewhat too stiff to accomplish all my feats, and I accordingly promised that if he could repeat one of them, that was to lift with one hand over his head my heaviest dumb-bell weighing 300lbs., I would consent to give him the money.

When the time came for him to take up the challenge, he grew alarmed at the prospect. In answer to my manager's announcement from the stage that we were ready for him, and that the money had been duly deposited, he stood up in the auditorium to remark that the challenge was made only as an advertisement, he did not believe in it, and he refused to come to the stage. With these words he rushed out of the building. His friends, who had a good deal of faith in his physical powers, rushed after him, and succeeded in bringing him back. In order further to encourage his drooping spirits my manager offered him the ten thousand dollars if he would lift the weight over his head with both hands. But still he did not like to attempt the task he had before rashly undertaken. We then reduced the conditions still further, promising that if he would lift the weight with two hands even as high as his shoulders we would still give him the money. His friends now chaffed and now rallied him, and at last he put his strength to the test; but lo, this vaunted strong man was a very weak man, for so far from being able to raise the weight to his shoulders, he succeeded scarcely in moving it from the ground.









## CHAPTER IX.

## MY LION FIGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Perhaps the greatest, certainly the most thrilling, of all my experiences is that which I am about to relate. It is the story of my lion fight in San Francisco.

I was performing in that western city at the time of the mid-winter fair, which followed the Chicago Exhibition. In connection with this fair Colonel Bone was exhibiting a great menagerie. One day he advertised a fight to the death between a lion and a bear. A tremendous tent, with accommodation for twenty thousand people, was erected for the occasion. Thousands and thousands of persons had bought tickets, when the police issued an order forbidding the performance, and the proposed spectacle had to be abandoned.

The thought occurred to me that I should take the bear's place and measure my strength against the king of the forest's. Of course there is always between the unarmed man and the beast this disadvantage, that the beast has natural weapons in his teeth and claws, whilst a man has nothing to help him in the fight. This lion, moreover, was a particularly furious animal. Only a week before he made a meal of his keeper. I have met many lions in various places, and this beast was certainly the largest and finest of them all. I was fully prepared to meet him as he was, provided I could have an equivalent for his claws in a short dagger or some similar weapon; but the law in America, as in England, is rightly very stern against cruelty to animals, and the dagger, of course, could not be allowed. If I desired to meet the beast the only way was to fight him as I would box a man, completely unarmed. As there is no

law to prevent cruelty to men, there was no objection to this method, though Colonel Bone, as well as my own friends, insisted that if there was to be a fight it must be a struggle between brute strength and human strength. In short, mittens would have to be placed on the lion's feet to prevent him from tearing me to pieces with his claws, and a muzzle would have to be placed over his head. Even with these precautions I was advised not to proceed with the contest. "With his strength," said Colonel Bone, "he'll knock your head off." But, personally, I had no fear, I was only anxious for the contest to begin. The engagement was accordingly made, and "A lion fight with Sandow" was boldly advertised. The announcement sent a thrill through the cities for hundreds of miles around, and in order fully to be equipped for a performance which would be bound to attract thousands and thousands of people, I decided to rehearse my fight with the lion beforehand.

Accordingly, preparations were made, and with much difficulty the lion was mittened and muzzled. It took several men with lassos and chains some hours to perform this operation, for not only had they to guard against the animal's overpowering strength, but they had to proceed cautiously in order not to injure him. A great cage, measuring seventy feet across, was brought round, and into it Colonel Bone, one of the most experienced of lion tamers, let the animal enter. Few people were present, but amongst them was my manager, that tall, slim, great little Ziegfeld, with a face white as snow. There is no doubt that Mr. Ziegfeld and the small company felt the position acutely, for, though personally I had confidence in myself—and confidence of victory is always half a battle won—yet those around were by no means sure of the issue, and there was some fear that my first fight with a lion might be my last.

However, my purpose being fixed, I entered the cage, unarmed and stripped to the waist. The lion, with fury in his eyes, crouched down ready to spring. Having read a good deal of the methods of the lion I was not unprepared for this form of attack. As he made his last strain for a tremendous leap I stepped sharply to the side and he missed his mark. Turning quickly before he had time fully to

recover, I caught him round the throat with my left arm, and round the middle with my right. By this means, though his weight was 530lbs., I lifted him as high as my shoulder, gave him a good hug to assure him that it was necessary to respect me, and tossed him on to the floor.

Thus outdone at his first attempt, the lion roared with rage. Rushing fiercely towards me he raised his huge paw to strike a heavy blow at my head. For the moment, feeling the swish of the lion's paw as it passed my face, I really thought that Colonel Bone's remark that he would knock my head off would prove true. Luckily I dodged my head just in time and got a good grip round the lion's body, with my chest touching his and his feet over my shoulders. Now came the tussle; the more I hugged him the more he scratched and tore, and though his feet were mittened he tore through my tights and parts of my skin. But I had got him as in a vice, and his efforts to get away were fruitless. Choosing an opportune moment, I flung him off me, Colonel Bone and my manager shouting to me to come out of the cage, as I had done enough and the lion's rage was unbounded.

I was determined, however, before I left to try just one other feat. Moving away from the lion I stood with my back towards him, thus inviting him to jump on me. I had not to wait many moments. He sprang right on my back. Throwing up my arms I gripped his head, then caught him firmly by the neck, and in one motion shot him clean over my own head to the ground before me. Colonel Bone rushed into the cage, snapping two revolvers to keep the lion off, and I came out, my legs torn, my neck scratched, and with scratches all over my body, but I felt that I had mastered that lion, and that I should have little difficulty in mastering him again at the performance that was to be given next day in public.

When the hour for the fight came the huge tent which held twenty thousand people was literally packed in every part. The cage with the lion was outside, and whilst he was being mittened and muzzled he became so furious that he broke two iron chains that bound him, and got loose. The people shrieked, the very men who a moment before

had been boasting of their bravery, were the first to fly, and there was a general stampede. But the moment the lion saw my eyes fixed fearlessly and firmly on him he seemed paralysed. Colonel Bone came up and pulled out his revolver, telling me not to take my eyes off him, as I had him in my power. Whilst we both remained motionless, the cage was brought near his head, and by a dexterous movement I had him over on his back, and once more he was a prisoner. The keepers tried again to mitten him, and after a great struggle they succeeded.

Then came the scene in the arena, the lion appeared first, and as I entered the whole place shook with cheers and applause. Through the whole of that vast assembly ran a thrill of great excitement, and photographers were there ready to take instantaneous pictures of the various positions of the fight with the lion. But no sooner did I enter the cage than the animal cowered down. He knew that I was his master and he refused to fight. Feeling that the audience would be sadly disappointed I tried to goad him on, but nothing would move him. Most beasts are cowards at heart, and this lion having met his match at the rehearsal refused to budge.

At last I caught hold of his tail and twisted it. This was the only thing that moved him. As he made a bound towards me I dodged, swung round and picked him up, and then tossed him down. The fight lasted scarcely two minutes. The lion, recognising that my strength was too much for him, would fight no more. Though I lifted him up and walked round the arena with him on my shoulders he remained as firm as a rock and as quiet as a lamb. The fierce fight at the rehearsal had subdued his courage. He was clearly conquered. I was afraid that my audience would be disappointed with the comparative tameness of the proceedings, but, on the contrary, everyone seemed thoroughly satisfied, and "the lion fight with Sandow" was long the talk of the day in San Francisco.



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## CHAPTER X.

## FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THE TOUR.

At the end of my engagement in San Francisco I organised my own company for a holiday tour in California. What a lovely country is that ; a country of perpetual summer and blue sky, of bright flowers and delicious breezes. Well do I remember our arrival in Los Angeles. Thousands and thousands of people came to meet our coach, the children smothering us with roses as though it were some battle of flowers.

But, of course, there were rough journeys in America as well as pleasant ones. On the way to Omaha, for example, we had an experience of the wilds. At the small villages at which the train stopped it seemed to be the custom to adjourn for the fifteen or twenty minutes to the gambling dens that adjoin the stations. Gambling has never had any attraction for me personally, but "In Rome one does as Rome does ;" and so in America. Accordingly, we visited one of these gambling houses. There is no question about the gambling. You play with dice. Everything is conducted at lightning speed, and before you know where you are high stakes have been lost or won—usually, it may be said, they are lost. In our case we started, in the few minutes at our disposal, by winning a good deal. Then we lost, and we left that place with our pockets practically empty. I had lost three hundred dollars, another lost four hundred, and a third eight hundred.

During the next part of the journey we heard that there was another gambling house at the station at which we should stop on our way. It was in connection, we understood, with that at which we had just lost our money, and no

doubt the manager would be informed by telegram of the easy manner in which we had been duped, in order to be prepared for our arrival. But we were determined to be even with those gambling house keepers. We agreed at the start not to risk more than five dollars, and if we won we would depart with our winnings before the luck, as in the last case, set in against us. For once expectations were realised. Precisely the same thing happened. At the beginning we had all the luck ; we not only recovered what we had previously lost, but each of us had a few hundred dollars to the good. Then of a sudden our luck began to turn. That was the signal. There was six or seven minutes to spare before the train started, and the manager and his friends said "You have lots of time, gentlemen, they will tell you when the train's ready." Much to their astonishment, however, we insisted on leaving, and as we walked out with our pockets fairly full the faces of those men fell visibly. I think on this occasion we had turned the tables successfully. Before, when we left at the previous stopping place, the partners of these fellows smiled considerably. They had had the advantage of us. Altogether this is a fairly even world : Someone may overreach us to-day ; but to-morrow, if we are wary, we shall get our own again, perhaps with interest.







## CHAPTER XI.

## MY DOG SULTAN. END OF THE TOUR.

At this stage of the tour I will introduce, with the reader's permission, my dog Sultan, the holder of seventeen first prizes. This dog, a handsome boar-hound, standing about thirty-four inches high at the shoulders and weighing some two hundred pounds, had been presented to me as a puppy by Prince Bismarck. Though I have never specially trained him, the dog has remarkable intelligence. My companion throughout my tour in America, he used to jump into the luggage van at every journey's end to find my trunks, and those that were not too heavy for him to lift he would bring out of the van. A similar performance would be repeated when we reached the hotel. Sultan would himself carry a good deal of the luggage upstairs, taking it up piece by piece, and disdaining the assistance of the niggers who would sometimes offer to give him help. Not unnaturally he became a great favourite wherever we went, and, though it was against the regulations, the hotel managers would allow us to have him in our rooms. He would never go out without carrying a satchel containing his chain and muzzle, a box of pills, two brushes, a tooth brush, a comb, and a few pieces of flannel, which were used for rubbing him down and keeping his coat in careful condition. He seemed to know perfectly each of these contents, and if one was ever missing he would not be satisfied until it was found or replaced.

Sultan can carry me very easily. Once in America I sprained my foot. I happened to be staying at the time at about the only hotel in the country which is not furnished with elevators. My rooms were on the second floor, and

that faithful and devoted creature would carry me up and down stairs before and after each performance, for I was still able to fulfil my engagements despite the sprain.

It is a peculiar thing about Sultan that, though he will not hurt you, yet if you enter a room whilst he is in it alone he will never let you leave until someone has attended to you. As a thief catcher, he is, for this reason, unequalled. On one occasion, as you shall hear, during my American tour, he saved my watch—that watch which was presented to me by my friend the French count. Whilst I am at the theatre I usually leave my coat and vest hanging on the wall of my dressing-room, Sultan being left in charge. One night we missed for more than an hour one of the stage assistants. When I returned to my dressing-room I was unable for the moment to enter. Sultan, it appeared, was blocking the door. Pushing it open I found the missing assistant at the other end of the room in a state of some uneasiness. I asked him what he was doing, and he explained that he had come to see if he could offer me any assistance. Having entered the room the dog would not let him move, and altogether he made out such a piteous tale that I sent him off with half-a-dollar. When, however, I came to look at my things I found that my watch, instead of being where I left it, in my vest pocket, was lying on the table, together with some money which had been taken from my pockets. It was then clear that the man's real object in entering my room was not that of assistance but of robbery. I called him back, verified my suspicions, and had him immediately discharged. For that night's work we treated Sultan to a special steak for his supper.

This unfortunately was not the only adventure which I had with this watch of which I was so proud. My friend's gift seemed to be doomed. Whilst we were at Omaha there was a ball given in the city, and Mrs. Sandow and I were invited to be present. As we should be late in returning I told my valet to give Sultan his walk and then to take the dog home with him for the night. We reached home about half-past two in the morning, and being tired we went straight to bed. It may be explained that our bedroom

stood behind the drawing-room, from which it was entered. Beyond the bedroom was the bathroom, in which I hung my clothes, leaving my watch and chain in my vest pocket.

I felt that night, as I felt on the "Elbe," that something was going to happen. Owing to this feeling I took the precaution to lock the drawing-room door. No one could enter the bedroom without coming through the drawing-room first. We felt, therefore, reasonably secure. In addition to my watch and chain, there was Mrs. Sandow's jewellery, which she had worn to the ball, whilst amongst other special things I had five twenty dollar pieces, which I had bought because of their rare dates. These gold pieces I left in my clothes in the bathroom; Mrs. Sandow's jewellery remained in a drawer in the bedroom.

Through the night we slept without disturbance. In the morning the servant who came to look after our clothes noticed that my watch chain had been broken and that my watch was missing. The five twenty dollar pieces were also gone, but Mrs. Sandow's jewellery was untouched.

Questioned as to how she got into the room, the girl said that the door was open. Someone had evidently broken into our rooms whilst we slept and had worked so quietly that they had not disturbed us.

A detective was called, and it was ascertained that shortly after we returned from the ball two well dressed men entered the hotel and asked for rooms on the first floor. It was then between two and three o'clock. Before five o'clock they left. The detective remarked that about that hour two men answering the description that was given had been seen to enter a train, and he thought he would be able to succeed in tracing them. I told him that if he brought my watch back he should be well rewarded.

When the rooms were examined it was found that the door had been opened by means of an instrument which was pushed through the keyhole to turn the key. The gas had been half turned on during the night, and no doubt they saw my watch-chain shining in the uncertain light, and decided to take those things that they could lay their hands on most easily without fear of waking us. It might have



been supposed to be risky work to rob a strong man ; but, on the other hand, it was found afterwards that the burglar was a desperate fellow, who had just completed nineteen years' penal servitude for shooting a man who was unfortunate enough to wake up whilst he was rifling his room.

During the day the two men were arrested. Four of the twenty-dollar pieces were found on them, but the watch was still missing. The men were taken before the police authorities, but on the ground that the case was not fully proved they were dismissed. After this decision, the detective came to me to ask what the watch was worth. Five hundred pounds I told him, in actual money, but for me it had a priceless value, and not for five thousand pounds would I willingly part with it.

" Seeing that it is worth so much," he said, " I will try to get it for you if you will promise to give me £800."

At this moment I realised the situation ; at any rate I felt justified in believing that this so-called detective was in league with the burglars, who had themselves owned in court that they knew where the watch was, though they refused flatly to give the information. Feeling disgusted with a man who could thus play so false and mean a game I took him by his neck and trousers and sent him flying through the door.

From that day to this I have never seen anything of my watch. It is, no doubt, lost to me for ever. If I had had my dog with me that night it would never have been stolen, for no burglar would have got past Sultan, however clever he might be at picking locks.

\* \* \* \*

Throughout my tour I offered medals to those of my pupils who were able to show the highest developments under my system of physical training. Thousands of applications were received, and the amount of my correspondence was enormous. In the end I arranged a meeting, at which the pupils stripped for my personal examination, and there the awards were made.

I received also several challenges during my tour. These challenges were frequently made after I had left a city, and as it came to be clear that those who made them merely

sought advertisement by associating their names with mine, I deposited ten thousand dollars with the "New York Herald" on the understanding that anyone who seriously meant business should also make a deposit as a guarantee of his good faith. If he duplicated my feats of strength the money would be his. But though this sum was deposited for about nine months I never received an answer.

At the end of my first tour in America I returned to England, engaged fresh talent for my company, and invented and practised some new feats of strength, including that which I have entitled the Roman horse exercise and that in which two people drive over me with a horse and chariot. Afterwards I paid a short return visit to America to fulfil certain engagements, and then came back again to London.









## CHAPTER XII.

## MY PERFORMANCE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

It may be useful, as a record, to indicate briefly the nature of the salient features of my performance at the London Pavilion at the time of writing this book.

To begin with there is a tableau, arranged for the purpose of showing muscular repose, with all the muscles relaxed ; muscular tension, with all the muscles as firm as steel ; the abdominal muscles ; the biceps, muscles of the upper arm ; the triceps, muscles of the back of the arm ; the deltoid, muscles of the shoulders ; the trapezino muscles which raise the shoulders ; the muscles of the back ; the action and uses of different muscles ; and the chest expansion, from 48ins. normal to 62ins.

The tableau curtains are withdrawn, and the scene changes to the arena. Resting with my neck on one chair and my heels on another, I hold 56lb. weights at arms' length and support four men simultaneously on my body. For the performance of this feat it may be mentioned that exceptionally strong neck and abdominal muscles are necessary.

Taking a pack of ordinary playing cards I tear them first in half and then in four parts. Next I repeat this performance with two packs, and finally with three packs, each pack containing the ordinary number of fifty-two cards. The feat of tearing in half one pack of cards was originally shown to me by the late Emperor of Russia. My reputation as an amateur had reached his Imperial Majesty, who paid me the honour of commanding my presence. During that interview his Majesty, as a test of his own manual strength, took a pack

of cards and tore it, as I have said, in halves. He had never tried more than the one pack, but I have succeeded with three, the torn cards being distributed each evening amongst the audience.

Another feat is performed lying prone on the ground. From this position I lift with one hand a Roman chariot, rising upright with it and afterwards lying down again. This feat brings the whole of the muscles into play.

I also introduce my Roman horse exercise. Sitting on a horse and so bending my back as to throw my head over the animal's tail I raise at arms' length heavy weights from the ground. Next I pick up two men, one after the other, raising them over my head and seating them in the saddle.

As a concluding feat, I support on my chest a bridge weighing eight hundred pounds. Over this bridge two persons drive a horse and chariot, making a total weight of about three thousand two hundred pounds.

It may be interesting, perhaps, to add that I have recently composed a musical march, entitled "Marche des Athlètes," as well as a waltz, "Sandownia" and other pieces, which musicians have been kind enough to commend for their brightness and originality.









## CHAPTER XIII.

## MY MEASUREMENTS.

As a supplement to the previous chapter it may be stated here, in answer to many inquiries, that my own measurements, etc., at the present time are as follows :—

Age .. .. .	29 years.
Weight .. .. .	14 stone 6lbs.
Height .. .. .	5 feet 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
Neck... .. .	18 inches.
Chest... .. .	48 "
Chest expanded .. . . .	62 "
Waist .. .. .	30 "
Hips ... .. .	42 "
Thigh .. .. .	26 "
Knee ... .. .	14 "
Calf ... .. .	18 "
Ankle .. .. .	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Upper arm .. .. .	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Forearm .. .. .	17 "
Wrist... .. .	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

My strength, it may be added, is steadily increasing. If some one had told me two years ago that I should be able to perform the feats of strength that I now accomplish I could not have believed it. I feel sure, moreover, that in the natural course of things, my strength will continue to increase. With careful training the bodily strength ought to increase steadily until the forty-fifth year is reached.

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|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Neck ...                           | 1 inch.   | Forearm ... | 1 inch.    |
| Chest ...                          | 3 inches. | Thigh ...   | 1½ inches. |
| Upper-arm ...                      | 2 ,,      | Calf ...    | 1 inch.    |
| Waist ... Proportionate Reduction. |           |             |            |

If these minimum developments are not attained—and in the majority of cases, no doubt, they will be much greater—I will return the pupil's fees for the three months' course.

Ladies have no need to develop their muscles to this extent, but in their case I promise that three months' training at my School will give them increased health and strength, the size of the waist being also reduced to its natural proportions.

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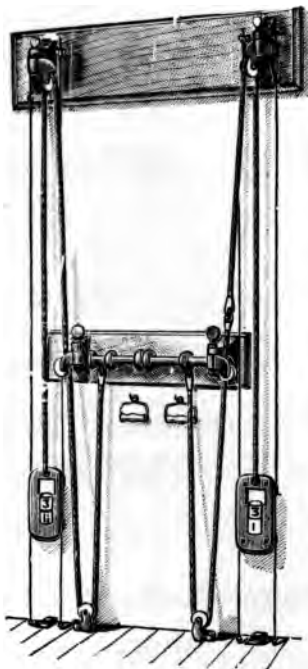
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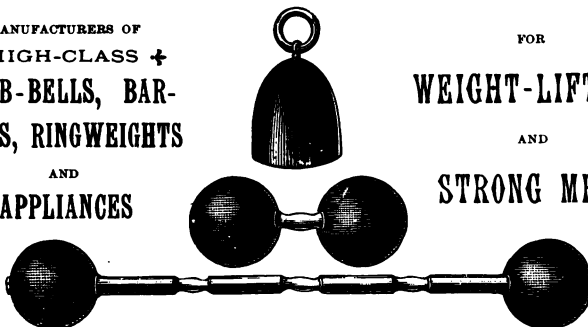
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