

Thomas Inch at his physical best. He then weighed about 200 lbs. and is here seen flexing his enormous arms. The depth of his chest is also seen.

Sampson, "The Man of The Hour", known by all and accepted by few as "the Strongest Man In The World". Sandow had his eyes on beating this strongman and collecting the prize.

mur of surprise and approval wafted through the huge Aquarium. They gaped open-mouthed at his muscular development. Even Samson and Cyclops gazed in awe and amazement.

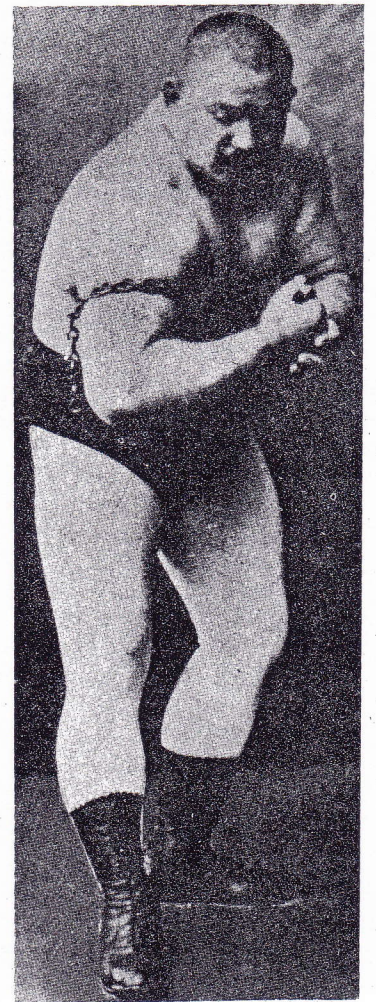
The contest began. Cyclops lifted two 56 lbs. weights and lowered them with arms fully extended—a feat Sandow had no difficulty in doing. Then Cyclops lifted 240 lbs. with two hands—then with one hand. This surely would be something the newcomer could not do! But Sandow *did* do it, and the crowd began to cheer. Next Cyclops took with one hand a dumbbell weighing 210 lbs., and, extending it at arm's length, bent down and raised over his head with the other a second dumbbell, of 100 lbs. in weight. Sandow repeated the feat and thought he had won, but Samson, reluctant to part with the money, wanted both to continue until either one dropped from sheer exhaustion.

Excitement had now reached fever heat. The crowd began to get unruly and clamored for Samson to pay the money. Finally, Sandow, confident of his ability, agreed that two extra feats should be done. Then Cyclops lay on his back and raised a weight of 240 lbs. with two men sitting on it. When the men jumped off he raised himself up with the weight. A smile appeared on his face as he looked at Sandow, as if to say "That's something you can't do!" Sandow returned the smile confidently, then repeated the lift, and the crowd yelled with delight. Then came the final test. A huge rock, weighing about 500 lbs. was brought on to the stage, and two 56 lbs. weights were fastened to the rock. Cyclops stood on two chairs, and with his middle finger raised the weight four inches off the floor—a prodigious feat of strength, but not too much for the youthful Sandow.

It was then announced that Sandow had not come to London merely to defeat Cyclops—he had come to defeat the mighty Samson himself! This startling announcement raised the excitement to the highest pitch. Although Sandow was ready to meet Samson there and then, Samson, with an eye to filling the huge Aquarium again, put off the contest until the Saturday night. The crowd was disappointed—but not with Eugen Sandow.

The eventful night came. The Royal Aquarium was packed to overflowing. Crowds thronged the doors—even the stage door, and when Sandow and his party arrived they could not gain admittance to the hall. Meanwhile Samson was strutting up and down the stage, saying Sandow was afraid to put in an appearance. He would give him another five minutes. If Sandow didn't show up by then the contest was off. Outside, Sandow managed to get to the stage door, only to find that the doorman had instructions not to admit *anyone*. But Sandow was determined to get in. A few well-

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"Cyclops" pupil of Sampson, was a heavyweight strongman and whose hand strength was equalled by only a few of the world's strongest men. Sandow was to receive \$500. if he could duplicate his feats of strength.

Photo by Ernest Edwin Coffin