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Mr. ABPLANALP IS STILL UNBEATEN !

Twenty-five potential Hercules went to the Dome (Brighton) on Thursday, July 20th, determined to humble Mr. Arthur Abplanalp. They all hoped to leave five guineas better off. For that was the prize offered by the 65-year-old Swiss physical culture expert to all who could copy his "perfectly simple feats of strength."

All they had to do was to go on the stage and hold a chair by the top, at arm's length horizontally with each hand and then with both hands at the same time for as long as Mr. Abplanalp.

Watched by the boxer Tommy Farr, who is training for his come-back under the Swiss' system, Mr. Abplanalp held the chair in his right hand for fifty seconds, in his left for 23 and with both hands for twenty.

When the challengers tried, it was a different matter. They made faces, gritted their teeth, tried all manner of grips, but in the end they all had to give in. Professional strong man, Estban Siatkowski, with biceps of about 18 inches, was the nearest. He held the chair 24 seconds with the right hand, twenty with the left, and nine with both hands.

Most applause, however, went to Kenneth Underhill, 22-year-old student and vegetarian of Little-crescent, Rottingdean. Although he could not equal the chair feats he held a rifle horizontally to the side of the head for sixty seconds, beating the Swiss man by thirty seconds. Nat Yess, professional boxers' manager, of Brighton, also made a gallant effort but had to admit defeat.

There was big disappointment that Kid Lewis, former welter-weight champion, did not take up the challenge. He was in the audience but did not take the stage. Miss Joan Rhodes, who has the title of "strongest woman in the world," sent a telegram expressing her regret at being unable to attend as she was working at Skegness.

Mr. Wilfrid Hill, D.Sc., the Brighton industrialist, is sponsor of the challenge, and when he announced from the stage that he was 82 the audience gasped. Mr. Hill said his youthful appearance was the result of using Mr. Abplanalp's system of physical culture, and he has high hopes of living another twenty years.

(Brighton & Hove Herald).

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DAS VERLASSENE HAUS.

Das Haus ist nun verlassen.
Ich kann es noch nicht fassen,
Dass alles jetzt verändert ist,
Dass du, o Mutter, nicht mehr bist,
Dass nimmer du dein "Gott behüte"
Mir mit auf meine Wege gibst,
Dass deines Lächelns sanfte Güte
Mir nimmer zeigt, wie du mich liebst.

Du steigst nun nicht mehr in den Garten
Um zärtlich Blumen zu betreuen,
Um allen Dingen aufzuwarten
Und deinen Segen auszustreuen.
Dein Herz, dein gutes, schlägt nicht mehr
Und füllt mit Licht das ganze Haus;
Das scheint so fremd mir jetzt und leer
Ich kenne hier mich nicht mehr aus.

Mir ist, als hielt ein böser Traum
Mich jetzt mit dunkler Macht umfassen.
Ich irre stumm durch jeden Raum
Und glaub, du kämest doch gegangen,
Vor jeder Türe bleib ich stehn
Als müsst ich . . . müsst dich wiedersehen.

Otto Feier.



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