

'Phenom' stretched reader imaginations

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and joint dislocating and stretching business in the first place. Related the *Courier*, "He (Simonsen) says he received his inspiration from watching a turtle stretch and shorten its neck, and it is his claim that his feats are done by will power as much as by dislocating joints. He says he can dislocate his neck, shoulders, wrists, hips, knees and ankles with great ease and seems to suffer no pain in doing so."

In describing Simonsen's other feats, the *Courier* told its readers, "He can expand his chest nine inches above normal without taking air into his lungs, and also gives many interesting exhibitions of shortening his neck, arms, legs and other parts of his body."

The reporter who wrote the story concluded his article in an interesting way: "Prof. Simonsen gives as much credit to will power and determination as he does to natural ability, and to prove his assertions, quotes the *Bible*, 'Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his measure?'"