

Ye Olde Plum News

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SWEDES IN BOOKS BY WODEHOUSE

SWEDISH EXERCISES, BENEFITS

"The Larsen exercises, invented by a certain Lieutenant Larsen of the Swedish Army, have almost every sort of merit. They make a man strong, supple, and slender. But they are not dignified. Indeed, to one seeing them suddenly and without warning for the first time, they are marked humorous." (Something New, 1915) In the later British version, Larsen belongs to the Danish Army! (Something Fresh, 1915)

"On the summit of his skyscraper, Wally Mason, performing Swedish exercises to the delectation of various clerks and stenographers in the upper window of neighbouring building, felt young and vigorous and optimistic, and went in to his shower-bath thinking of Jill." (Jill the Reckless, 1921)

"George extricated himself from his hiding-place and, with a twist which would have been impossible to a man not in the habit of doing Swedish exercises daily before breakfast, heaved himself into the corner seat." (The Truth About George, Meet Mr. Mulliner, 1927)

About Charlotte Rowbotham: "In fact, if she had knocked off starchy foods and done Swedish exercises for a bit, she might have been quite tolerable. But there was too much of her." (Comrade Bingo, The Inimitable Jeeves, 1923)

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### SWEDISH EXERCISES, ADHERENTS

"He (Isadore Baermann) did a few Swedish exercises." (At Geisenheimer's, The Man with Two Left Feet, 1917)

"His (Stilton Cheesewright's) personal attendant merely reports that he ... does Swedish exercises in the nude each morning before breakfast." (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)

"Major Flood-Smith," said the Old Retainer, alluding to the retired warrior resident at Castlewood, next door but one, "was doing Swedish exercises in his garden early this morning." (Big Money, 1931)

"She (Miss Yorke) reached out a clutching hand, seized his lordship's beard in a vice-like grip, and tugged with all the force of a modern girl, trained from infancy at hockey, tennis and Swedish exercises." (Lord Emsworth Acts for the Best, Blandings Castle, 1935)

"Well, I won't keep you, as, no doubt, you want to do your Swedish exercises." (Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

Osborne tells about Wodehouse: "At eighty, he still does Swedish exercises every morning and touches his toes fifty times." (Wodehouse at Work, 1961)

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SWEDISH EXERCISES, DEVIATIONS

"Anatole did a sort of Swedish exercise, starting at the base of the spine, carrying on through the shoulderblades and finishing up among the back hair." (Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

"... the chair in which she sat was so deep that to extricate herself from it she would have to employ a

sort of Swedish exercise quite out of keeping with the solemnity of the moment." (The Luck of the Bodkins, 1934)

Sam Fisher with his arms in the air: "Do we take them down? Have we your permission to assume Position Two of these Swedish exercises?" (The Little Nugget, 1913)

Lord Ickenham: "... Swedish exercises?" he asked, breaking off, for his companion had flung her arms out in a passionate gesture. "Don't talk so much, Uncle Fred!" (Service with a smile, 1962)

"I doubt if the moth, or whatever it was that was doing Swedish exercises in and around my left ear, had the remotest notion that it had parked itself on a person of a once vivacious clubman." (Joy in the morning, 1947)

"The Bisquit surveyed the human semaphore with interest. 'What is it? Swedish exercises?' " (Big Money, 1931)

"... replacing the weapon in a handy pocket, he proceeded to slap vigorously at the region between his shoulder blades. He also wriggled with not a little animation. Psmith watched these manoeuvres gravely. 'You did not stop me at the pistol's point merely to watch you go through your Swedish exercises?' he said. Mr Cootes paused for an instant. 'Got a beetle or something down my back,' he explained curtly." (Leave it to Psmith, 1923)

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### SWEDISH EXERCISES, OPPONENTS

Stilton Cheesewright and Bertie: "Do you do Swedish exercises before breakfast?" "I wouldn't dream of such a thing. Leave the excesses to the Swedes, I say." (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)

"No," I said, ignoring her query as to why I had chosen this moment to do my Swedish exercises, "I haven't. But Ma Cream got me." "Don't tell me she caught you bending again?" (Jeeves in the Offing, 1960)

Sue Brown and her boss Mr. Mason: "Do you realize, Pa, that if you got up early every morning and did half an hour's Swedish exercises..." "If you don't want to be murdered, stop!" (Summer Lightning, 1929)

"Do you do Swedish exercises?" "I go through a series of evolutions every morning, with the utmost loathing... I would leave them off if I could, but I can't." "Do nothing of the kind. They are invaluable." (The Coming of Bill, 1920)

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SWEDISH EXERCISES AND GOLF

"Archibald, mark you, whose golf was a kind of blend of hockey, Swedish drill, and buck-and-wing dancing." (Archibald's Benefit, The Man Upstairs, 1914)

"Most women golfers are elaborate wagglers, but none that Bradbury had ever seen had made quite such a set of Swedish exercises out of the simple act of laying the clubhead behind the ball and raising it over

the right shoulder. (Keeping in with Vosper, The Heart of a Goof, 1926)

"I can't see why he does it," said Mitchell, eyeing Alexander with a toleration that almost amounted to affection. "If I did all those Swedish exercises before I drove, I should forget what I had come out for and go home." (Ordeal by Golf, The Clicking of Cuthbert, 1922)

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### SWEDES

"There is a Swedish lady who looks after my simple needs there, but instinct tells me that, if I were to approach her on the subject of loosening up for the benefit of the young master, she would call a cop." (Jill the Reckless, 1921)

"It was at this moment that Mr. Oscar Swenson, one of the thriftiest souls who ever came out of Sweden, perceived that the chance of a lifetime had arrived for adding substantially to his little savings." (The Girl on the Boat, 1921)

Mrs. Oakley has a Swedish companion and "maid-of-all-works". (The Prince and Betty, 1912)

Clarkson, and Ferris talks: "What was wrong with them?" "Several of them were Swedes, and the rest Irish." "You don't like Swedes?" "I disapprove of them." "Why?" "Their heads are too square." "And you disapprove of the Irish?" "Why?" "Because they are Irish." To Clarkson, some of his best friends were Swedish and Irish, it occurred as a passing thought that his companion, however gifted at butting, must have been a difficult man to fit in socially." (Company for Henry, 1967)

"... when I say swedes I don't mean Swedes, I mean swedes. Between the Swede who comes from Sweden and the swede which tries to mask its malevolence by hiding in black juice there is a great gulf fixed. I yield to no man in respect for Swedes, but swedes give me a pain in the neck, and elsewhere. (Huy Day by Day, Performing Flea, 1954)

"You said in one of your letters that some BBC man had suggested they didn't but thank God we still sell a copy or two I England and also in Sweden - Sweden is booming." (Letter to Dennis Mackail, Yours, Plum, 1990)

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SWEDISH ACCENT

"Ponsford Botts once more told his story of the two coutermongers who went to heaven, and even though he told it with a Swedish dialect Walter laughed unstintedly." (Joy Bells for Walter, A Few Quick Ones, 1959)

"Bywater had gone on and was telling Irish dialect stories with a Swedish Accent." (Money for Nothing, 1928)

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