SEA SERPENTS.

in ponds and marshes. The truth is that there are sea serpents, to be sure not colossal monsters with heads as I now chiefly occupied by nomadic tribes of Pimas, Marico

big as hogsheads, and capable of crushing small vessels in their vast folds, but moderate-sized snakes, growing sometimes to a length of over nine feet, but generally about half that. The family of thantophidians to which they belong has only seven genera and about twenty species, and is indigenous to the Indian Ocean and archipelago. The serpents have flat tails and a compressed body, perfectly adapted to their aquatic existence. They are, in fact, compromises between snakes and eels. Like snakes they are venomous, and their bite is often deadly, although their poison loses its power after the reptile has been out of water a few days. The jaws and teeth are smaller than those of land serpents of the same dimensions. The head is always small. The body changes its form according to the season of the year, being sometimes long and thin, again short and thick.

The cerpents belonging to the genus hydrophis are nearest allied to their land brethren, and one especially, the platura, appears to be a connecting link between

scales all indicate an animal capable of locomotion on the and as well as in the water. The food of the family-one member of which is well represented in the annexed illustration, from La Nature-is fish, crustaceans, and small turtles, which they kill by their venomous bite. A curious fact is that the snakes in time become literally covered with barnacles, as when these parasites affix themselves to their bodies the serpents make no attempts to remove them.

PREHISTORIC RELICS IN ARIZONA.

Arizona Territory is perhaps less known, to the majority of our inhabitants, than any other part of the country; and | the origin of the inscriptions. The marks are not painted | the egg there for fifteen minutes.

yet it has a remarkably fine climate, moderate temperature, There have been so many "mariners' yarns" told about fertile soil, and unbounded mineral wealth. No railways, gigantic sea serpents that few believe that any true mem- however, have as yet been constructed in Arizona; but the ber of the snake family ever lives in the sea, despite the fact | Atlantic and Pacific and the Texas Pacific companies have that in our temperate climate there are many of the reptiles obtained charters and land grants, and, when these roads known as water snakes which are rarely met with except are constructed, there is every likelihood of this beautiful land is far to the northeast of these rocks. It seems rearegion being reached by settlers from the East; and its lands,



THE HYDROPHIS.

the two orders. Its general conformity and its large ventral | pas, Mohaves, Utes, and Apaches, will be brought into cul- | plored.

To the traveler and antiquary, Arizona is a land possessing especial interest, as it abounds with relics of two populations, probably widely separate in point of time. There are to be found here numerous ruins of Aztec sculptures and buildings, which were probably of great antiquity when Cortes arrived in Mexico, and Don José de Vasconcellos crossed Arizona towards the Great Cañon, in 1526. But the remarkable painted rocks, shown in our illustration, are doubtless much older than the Aztec relics; and there is no history, legend, or tradition that even attempts to explain

but scratched on the surface of the rock, which is a kind of gritty sandstone, of red color; and many of the animals thus rudely depicted are not, and perhaps never have been, indigenous to Arizona. The alpaca, for instance, belongs to the uplands of South America; and the buffalo's native sonable, therefore, to believe that the inscriptions were part of an account of some travelers' wanderings, who thus re-

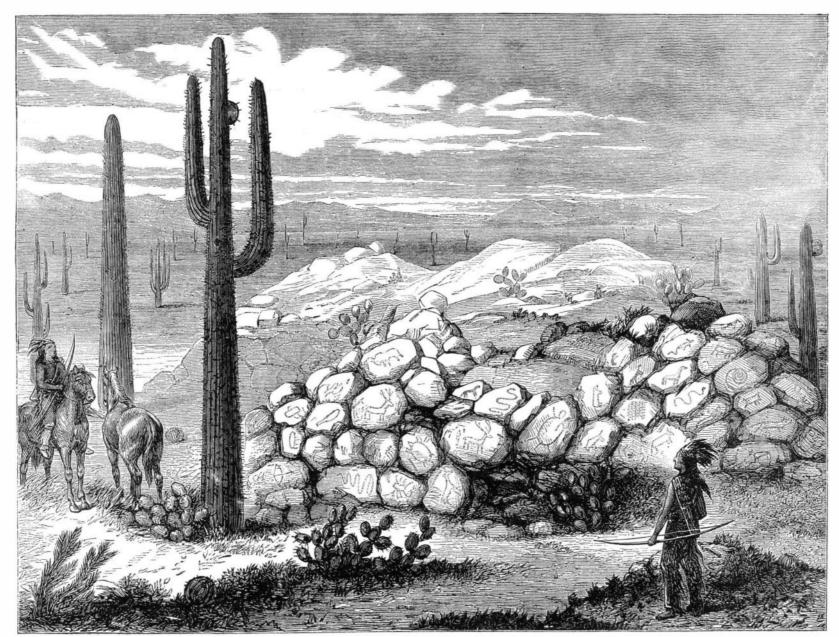
corded news of the remarkable countries they had visited.

The pitahiya, or giant cactus, several specimens of which are shown in our engraving (which we select from the pages of the Illustrated London News), sometimes reaches the hight of seventy feet. It has a curiously weird appearance, with its huge pronged branches looming in the distance. The fruit is a favorite food with the natives, who knock it down from the trees with arrows. They also use the fibers of the trunks. matting them together to roof their wigwams with.

The Aztec relics are very numerous on the Colorado plateau, in the northwestern part of Arizona; and the Spaniards subsequently erected reservoirs, terraces, and buildings of great extent. Stone fortifications are also very frequently met; and it has been estimated from such indications that at least 100,000 people inhabited the Gila valley at one time. It is probable, moreover, that some further light may be thrown on the history of this wonderful region, as much of the northern part of the country has never been ex-

FOR KEEPING crackers dry, unslaked lime is recommended. The wooden boxes for the crackers should be about 12 inches deep, and have a tray 1 inch deep to rest just beneath the lid, which should fit tightly. The lime is placed on the tray, and is said to keep the crackers dry for six months if the box is not opened, or for about two months if the box is visited daily.

THE Herald of Health says that the right way to cook an egg is to pour water on it at a boiling temperature and leave



THE PAINTED ROCKS, ARIZONA TERRITORY.