

THE BRAZILIAN PORCUPINE.

In Southern America the porcupines find a representative in the coendoo, an animal which is not only remarkable for its array of quills, but also for the prehensile power of its long tail.

As might be presumed, from the prehensile tail and the peculiarly armed claws, the coendoo is of arboreal habits, finding its food among the lofty branches of trees. On the level ground it is slow and awkward, but among the more congenial boughs it climbs with great ease, drawing itself from branch to branch by means of its hooked claws; but seldom using its tail, except as an aid in descent. The food of this animal consists of leaves, flowers, fruit, bark, and the soft woody substance of young and tender branches, which it slices easily with its chisel-edged incisor teeth. During the summer months the coendoo becomes extremely fat, and its flesh is then in great request, being both delicate in flavor and tender in character. The young of this animal are born in the month of September or October, and are very few in number.

The total length of the coendoo is about three feet six inches, of which the tail occupies one foot six inches. Its nose is thick and blunt, like that of the common porcupine, and the face is furnished with very long whisker hairs of a deep black. The numerous spines which cover the body are parti-colored, being black in the center and white at each extremity. Their length is rather more than two inches on the back, an inch and a half on the fore legs, and not quite an inch on the hinder limbs. A number of short quills are also set upon the basal half of the tail, the remainder of that organ being furnished with scales, and tapering to its extremity. The color of the scales is black. The entire under surface of the tail is covered with similar scales, among which are interspersed a number of bright chestnut hairs. The abdomen, breast, and inner face of the limbs are clothed with dense, brown, coarse hairs. It is a nocturnal, sleeping by day, and feeding by night.

Snake Eating Snake.

We do not know that either of the snakes shown in the engraving is a snake-eating snake, but it is certain that a portion of one snake, by accident or otherwise, has passed between the jaws and through a considerable portion of its body. The double specimen from which our engraving is made, and which we now have before us, was captured in a hay field near the village of Collinsby, Canada, by Mr. John Filmer, a well known engraver of this city.

It is Mr. Filmer's opinion that while thrusting the fork into the hay to get a lift he must have struck the belly of the larger snake, making the opening through which the smaller one was partly liberated. Both snakes were alive. The larger one is familiarly known as the garter snake; the smaller one as the common brown snake.

Sea Snake Caught in Submarine Telegraph Wire.

Mr. Moginie has called upon me, says Frank Buckland, the celebrated naturalist, in *Land and Water*, with a lovely specimen of a sea snake which he wanted properly mounted in a bottle for the board-room of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. One of the cables belonging to this company was being raised from the bottom of the sea, I believe in the Indian Ocean. When the cable came to the surface the snake in question was found coiled tightly round the telegraph cable. Luckily it was killed before it could do any mischief, as these sea-snakes are excessively poisonous. In the College of Surgeons there is a sea snake which crawled up the anchor chain of a man-of-war when she was moored in the mouth of the Ganges. The midshipman of the watch saw something moving along the chain,

and without thinking, went to pick it up. The venomous brute immediately turned upon him and bit him. The poor young midshipman did not live many hours after the accident. Mr. Moginie's snake is about a yard long, and the general color of it is white, and it is most beautifully marked on the back with black, or rather dark chocolate, patterns.

The tail is, as in all sea snakes, quite flattened, like the end of an oar. This, of course, gives the animal great power of swimming. My friend, Dr. Day, luckily came in just as I was consulting Sir Joseph Fayer's magnificent illustrated work on the "Venomous Snakes of the Indian Peninsula."



COENDOO, OR BRAZILIAN PORCUPINE.—*Cercolabes prehensilis*.

and I am now enabled to give the following account of it by Dr. Day:

"The example of sea snake (*Pelamis bicolor*) which you showed me as having been killed by a deep sea telegraph wire in the Indian Ocean is a species having a very wide geographical range. I have taken an example in Scinde, another in Orissa, while it is reported to extend throughout the subtropical and tropical portions of the Indian Ocean. I have only met with a few examples, and do not look upon it as nearly so common as the blue-banded *enhydrina*. All these sea-snakes, I need scarcely observe, are exceedingly venomous.

"This instance recalls to my mind a circumstance which," continues Dr. Day, "occurred off the coast of Beloochistan, near the Persian Gulf, in 1871, when the telegraph cable was ruptured. A few days subsequently the dead body of a whale was discovered on the sea beach, and I think the end of the cable was found wound round the animal's tail, just in front of the tail fin. It appeared to me that the accident must have occurred somewhat in the following manner, promising that (as all know) the tail fin of a whale is placed

Intellect in Brutes.

The Duke of Argyll, in his "Reign of Law," was, I think, the first who promulgated the dictum that man is the only tool-making animal. As far as I can ascertain, this assertion is admitted by developmentists, yet it is undoubtedly true that the Indian elephant makes two *implements*, or forms and alters certain things so as to adapt them specially to fulfill definite purposes, for which, unaltered, they would not be suitable.

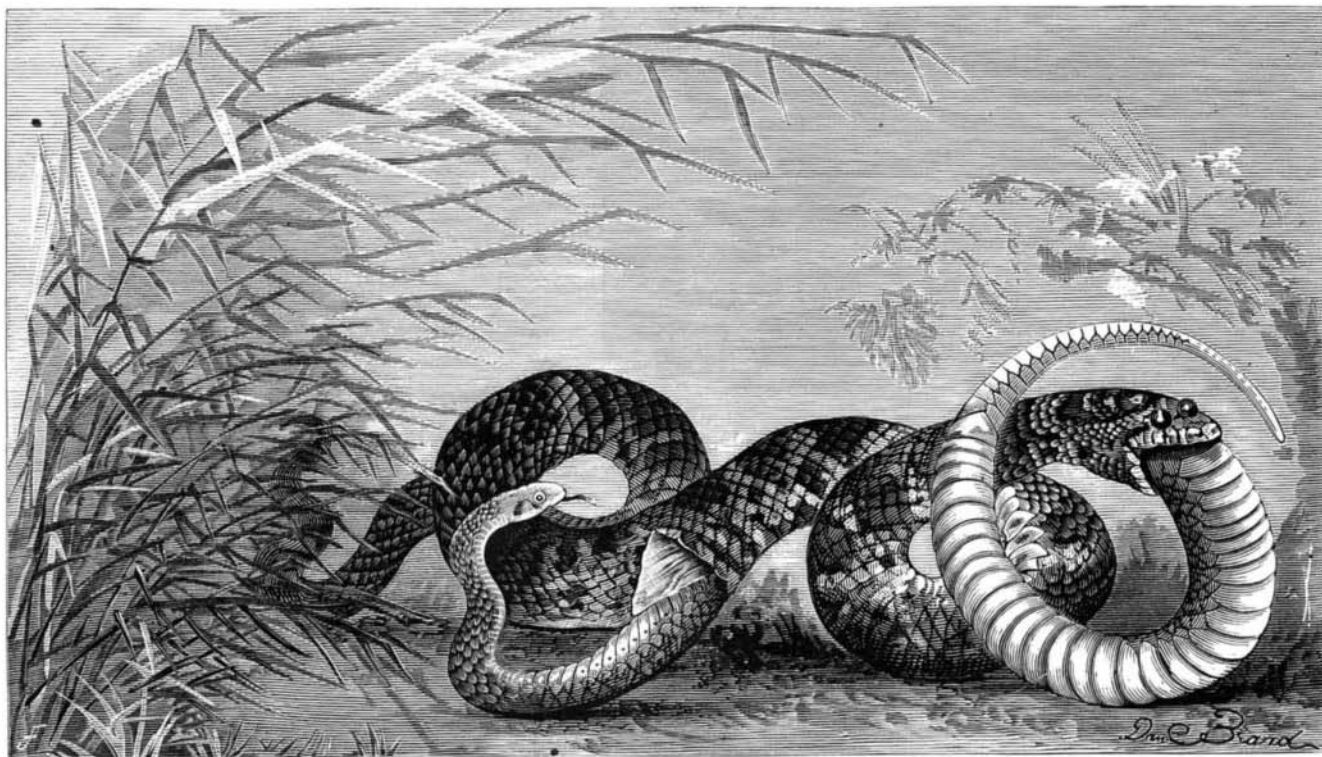
One evening soon after my arrival in Eastern Asam, and while the five elephants were as usual being fed opposite the Bungalow, I observed a young and lately caught one step up to a bamboo stake fence and quietly pull one of the stakes up. Placing it under foot, it broke a piece off with the trunk, and after lifting it to its mouth, threw it away. It repeated this twice or thrice, and then drew another stake and began again. Seeing that the bamboo was old and dry, I asked the reason of this, and was told to wait and see what it would do. At last it seemed to get a piece that suited, and holding it in the trunk firmly, and stepping the left fore-leg well forward, passed the piece of bamboo under the armpit, so to speak, and began to scratch with some force. My surprise reached its climax when I saw a large elephant leech fall on the ground, quite six inches long and thick as one's finger, and which, from its position, could not easily be detached without this scraper, or scratch, which was deliberately made by the elephant. I subsequently found that it was a common occurrence. Leech scrapers are used by every elephant

daily. On another occasion, when traveling at a time of year when the large flies are so tormenting to an elephant, I noticed that the one I rode had no fan or wisp to beat them off with. The mahout, at my order, slackened pace and allowed her to go to the side of the road, where for some moments she moved along rummaging the smaller jungle on the bank; at last she came to a cluster of young shoots well branched, and after feeling among them, and selecting one, raised her trunk and neatly stripped down the stem, taking off all the lower branches and leaving a fine bunch on top. She deliberately cleaned it down several times, and then laying hold at the lower end broke off a beautiful fan or switch about five feet long, handle included. With this she kept the flies at bay as we went along, flapping them off on each side every now and then. Say what we may, these are both really *bona fide* implements, each intelligently made for a definite purpose.—*S. E. Peal, in Nature*.

Mating of Queen Bees.

At the late Bee-keepers' Convention, Chicago, Professor J. Hasbrouck, of Bound Brook, N.J., after relating many failures, went on to state the plan which he had finally found successful. It was as follows:

I took an empty sugar barrel, clean and tight, with a cover fitting tightly over the upper hoop, and into this cover I cut a round hole about four inches across in the center, and fastened a piece of glass against it on the under side. I now waited until I had the queen again in the trap, which happened about 2 o'clock. I put three drones with her, and threw them all into the barrel, standing in the bright sunlight, and quickly closed the lid. They all immediately flew to the glass, and before I had got ready to look at them fairly, the queen had mated with one of the drones. I took the barrel into a room and caught the queen and returned her to the nucleus. I had two other young queens which I expected would soon be out, and I had traps then set to catch them; but in my anxiety to see if the thing could be done again, I could not wait for them to come out, so I went to the hive and caught one of these queens with a queen cage and put her into the barrel with drones. She mated about as quickly



SINGULAR RESULT OF A SNAKE ENCOUNTER.

transversely to the body, and not as in a fish. If the telegraph wire passed from one rock to another, or from an elevated spot to the bottom of the sea, it would not be difficult to imagine that a whale swimming past might very easily become entangled. Should its transverse tail have hitched over the wire the animal would become frantic, and rolling itself round and round, it might burst the wire in two, but still be held fast, due to telegraph wire encircling its tail just below the origin of the fin."