

A wonderful poisonous snake has just found a home in the London Zoological Gardens. This is a snake-eating snake, hence called *ophiophagus*. Dr. Fayer has fully described this creature. We learn from him that this most formidable of poisonous snakes, is found, but not commonly, in India, the Andaman and Philippine Islands, etc. It is the largest and most formidable of known venomous snakes. Shortly after his arrival he was fed by the keeper, who put an ordinary English snake into his cage: the *ophiophagus* quickly devoured the English snake by bolting him dead first. In general appearance this new snake is very like a common cobra, except that, when he spreads his hood, he is seen to be marked in very pretty bands, not unlike the patterns on oil cloth. The head is somewhat almond-shaped, exceedingly lizard-like, not flat and triangular like that of the rattlesnake. When sitting up with his hood expanded, the snake is continually jerking his head in a restless manner, reminding us of the quick, darting motion of the common green lizard; the eye is exceeding clear and bright. When disturbed he hisses loudly, and shows his fangs by extruding his long, black tongue, which he vibrates with marvellous celerity. The lower part of the glass of the cage now inhabited by this snake has been painted white, in order that his naturally dark temper shall be disturbed as little as possible by the morning sale of visitors.