

serpent into a large glass vessel of wine, where it swam about for six hours; but being immersed and kept under that liquid by force, it lived only an hour and a half. He put another in common water, where it lived three days; but on being kept under water, it died in about twelve hours. Their motion in the water is quite different to what it is on land; in the former they move their bodies backward and forward, from the right to the left, but on the latter it is simply up and down.

Some serpents have a most horrible foetor attending them, which is alone capable of intimidating the brave. This proceeds from two glands near the vent, like those in the weasel and pole-cat; and, like those animals, in proportion as they are excited by rage or by fear, the scent grows stronger. It would seem, however, that such serpents as are most venomous are least offensive in this particular; since the rattle-snake and the viper have no smell whatever: nay, we are told that at Calcutt and Cranganor, in the East Indies, there are some very noxious serpents, who are so far from being disagreeable, that their excrements are sought after, and kept as the most pleasing perfume. The æsculapian serpent is also of this number.

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