

fangs hanging out of the upper jaw. It has a broad neck, and a mark of dark brown on the forehead, which, when viewed frontwise, looks like a pair of spectacles; but behind, like the head of a cat. The eyes are fierce, and full of fire; the head is small, and the nose flat, though covered with very large scales, of a yellowish ash colour; the skin is white; and the large tumour on the neck is flat, and covered with oblong, smooth scales.

From the fatal effects of the venom of these animals, it was natural for constant researches to be made to discover an antidote, but hitherto they have been ineffectual, at least with any degree of certainty; though there are frequent instances of relief being obtained by an application of the Virginian snake-root; and the head of the animal bruised and laid upon the part affected, has been thought to assist in the cure: salad oil is also reckoned very efficacious; and the Indians make use of a composition, called the serpent's stone, which has the property of sticking to the skin of the injured part, and will draw out the blood; yet, in general, it is painful to remark, that the poison baffles every effort; and of which the rude Indians are so sensible,