li du lieu des erreurs qui naissent continuell-
ment de l'inexpérience de l'observateur, de l'inégalité journalière de son aptitude, de l'illusion de ses sens, et difficultés inheren-
tes à la méthode d'exploration qu'il em-
ploye."

CASE OF SNAKE BITE,
SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH OPIUM, SUL-
PHURIC ETHER, &c.

By Richard Colliere, Esq., the Medical
 Officer of the Imperial Brazilian Mining
Association, at Gongo Socó, in Brazil.

On the afternoon of Saturday, May 7th,
between the hours of three and four o'clock,
while reclining in my study, fatigued by a
close and anxious attendance of fifteen
hours upon the lady of one of our mining
Captains, confined for the first time, my at-
tention was suddenly arrested by one of our
negroes, named Matheus Mina, hastening
towards my cottage. His face (familiar to
me above all others in this extensive estab-
lishment) stamped with the deepest distress,
induced me to meet him at the outward door.
On inquiring into the cause of his apparent
alarm, his only, but oft-repeated reply was,
"Cobra, Senhor!" (Snake, sir!) Bringing
him into my bed-room, myself and servant
shewed him several specimens of snakes,
anxiously asking him to tell us which it
resembled; his answers were incoherent and
unsatisfactory. In hurrying him down to
the hospital I met a Brazilian, whom I be-
sought to question him, which he did in vain,
for nothing could be elicited.

On reaching the ward, wherein a bed was
prepared for the poor fellow, he vomited
more than a pint of black blood. Seeing
him comfortably covered in bed, after some
successful and earnest efforts to calm his
phrensis feelings, at length I obtained from
him the following facts:—he, and other
blacks had been out in the woods, cutting
capim (grass), when he felt himself slightly
bitten by a snake. Endeavouring to pursue
and kill it, he was prevented by a dizziness
in his eyes, almost amounting, for the mo-
ment, to perfect privation of sight. The
bite was in the second phalanx of the fourth
toe of the right foot. The snake he called
"cascavel," but this was owing to ignorance,
almost all the negroes here designating every
snake possessing poisonous properties, by
this general name. The cascavel is the real
rattle snake, so called from its happy habit
of shaking its rattle before biting, thus af-
fording time to escape from its fatal fang;
and, in consequence, I have repeatedly heard
it called, both by slaves and Brazilians,
"Cobra muito boa" (the very good snake).

Having since seen snakes similar to that
by which this black had been bitten, I have
no hesitation in asserting that the snake was
of the numerous species which is here called
"jararáca."*

* From the time of his being bitten until he
reached the hospital, four hours had elapsed.
On first fixing my eyes on him, his stooping
posture particularly attracted attention, oc-
casioned no doubt by his attempts to ease a
poignant pain in the right inguinal glands;
intense anguish was depicted in his counte-
* In the "Corografia Brasileira," by
Padre Manoel Ayres de Cazal, there is a
sentence regarding this snake, of which the
following is a translation:—"The jararáca,
whose species is the most numerous, is fatal;
that which takes its name from its white tail
is not more than a span in length, and its
poison hiterto has no known antidote; the
being that is bitten by it instantly falls into
convulsions and bloody sweats, and dies in
a short time."
knowledge of it soon spread through the entire establishment, and such numbers now rushed into the hospital, that I was obliged to station four persons at the door to prevent the entrance of any one, unless by my permission. To those who saw him now, death seemed so certain and so near in its approach, that the blacks, with whom he had been a favourite, bemoaned him most sincerely, and piercing shrieks were heard on all sides, literally lamenting the living as one who was dead; and, indeed, for myself, in gazing on the ghastly and cadaverous countenance before me, I saw nothing to inspire a single ray of hope.

I now (six o'clock) gave twenty drops of the tincture of opium, with the ether and oil, as before. At seven o'clock I repeated the same dose, and lay down in the bed which was beside his couch, watching every muscular movement. His lips were much retracted; he still severely felt the pains passing through his limbs, but he had experienced no pain, since his admission into the hospital, in the toe which was bitten. I persisted in repeating the above medicine every hour, giving at intervals a plentiful portion of port wine, and excellent chicken broth.

At eleven o'clock, A.M., I found that his sight was so far improved as to enable him to distinguish the gentleman in charge of the negroes, but only when that individual stood at the foot of the bed, so that the light might fall directly on him, otherwise he could not discern him. At twelve o'clock the draught was again repeated.

At one o'clock, P.M., the entire abdominal region rapidly rose, and was suddenly swollen to a dangerous degree. I instantly gave him four drops of the liquor ammon. fortioris, three drops of essential oil of peppermint, the like quantity of the oil of anniseed, and one drachm of sulphuric ether.

In a few minutes I had the most delightful of seeing the abdomen slowly sinking to its original and natural size. Hope here arose. At four o'clock the wound seemed to be so slight, and so clean and healthy, that it might have passed for a slight scratch with a cambric needle. At one o'clock, P.M., the entire abdominal region rapidly rose, and was suddenly swollen to a dangerous degree. I instantly gave him four drops of the liquor ammon. fortioris, three drops of essential oil of peppermint, the like quantity of the oil of anniseed, and one drachm of sulphuric ether.

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Gongo Soco, Dec. 4th, 1835.

ON THE IDENTITY, IN NATURE, SYMPTOMS, MORBID APPEARANCES, AND CAUSES, OF HYSTERIA AND HYDROPHOBIA.

By Francis Eagle, Esq., Surgeon, London.

In investigating the nature of any disease, the general character which it assumes, the peculiar locality of its seat, and the period of life at which it occurs, enable us to form (at least) a presumptive opinion, as to its cause. Some diseases are peculiar to infancy, some to puberty, others to the adult, and, lastly, to old age. To ascertain, therefore, the general laws under which diseases operate, is the first "stepping stone" to their peculiar nature. Hysteria, for example, arises most commonly between the age of puberty and that of thirty-five years. For what is this period remarkable? For the full development of the "sexual system;" it more frequently occurs in the unmarried than in the married; often attacks about the period of the catamenia, than at any other; is extremely uncommon in females who lead a life of prostitution; and on dis-