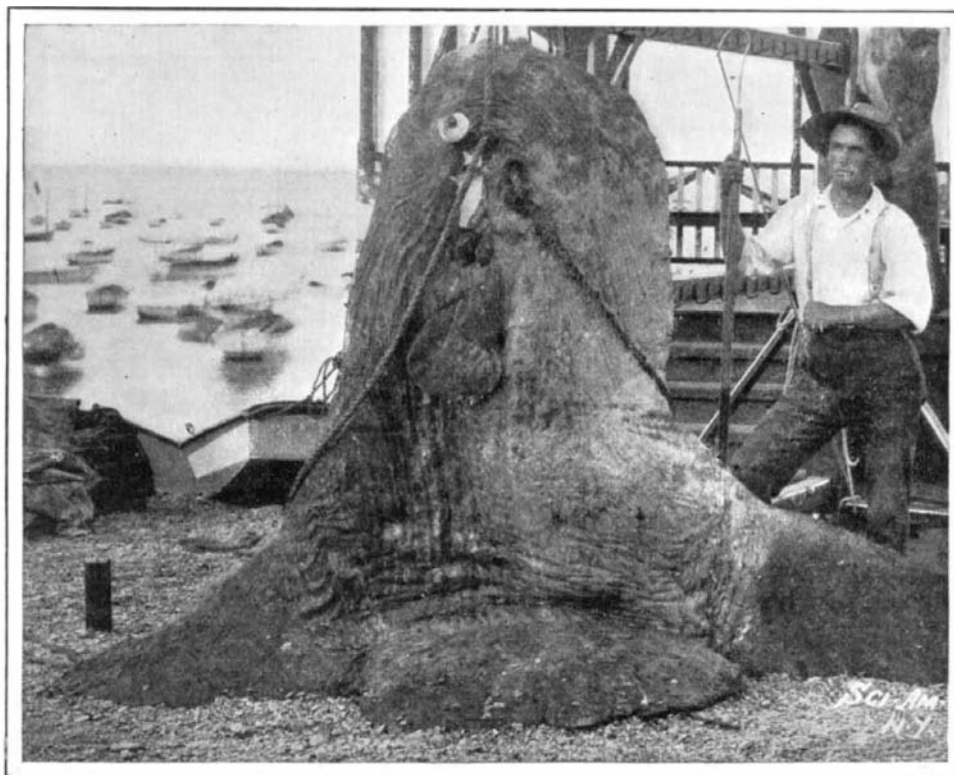


ing about just avoiding the teeth of the patient sunfish.

I was fortunate in observing a large sunfish in the St. John's River, Florida. I was watching the bar of the river one day when I saw the fish come in and run aground, its long keel striking. In its terror the fish created such a sea that the fishermen went out and captured it, the sunfish proving to be a monster in every sense of the term. On the Pacific Coast I have repeatedly observed sunfishes (*Mola mola*) ranging in size from small individuals weighing from twenty to fifty pounds to huge creatures. A sunfish was taken off Redondo, California, which weighed eight hundred pounds, being over eight feet in length. Another, and perhaps the largest sunfish ever seen, was sighted by an acquaintance of the writer, who approached near enough to put a harpoon into it. The fish slowly sank below the surface, exhausting the rope and taking the bow of the launch down so continuously that the crew were well satisfied when the rope broke. Various estimates were given as to the size of this fish, but all agreed that it must have weighed over a ton. I have frequently observed these fishes near the south end of Santa Catalina, in August, which appears to be a summer meeting and feeding ground for many large fishes. On one occasion in looking over I saw several sunfishes swimming about. They may have weighed forty or more pounds each, and their movements, while slow, were graceful. One was swimming in a circle with a certain dignity, and I could see its peculiar "tail" bend as it turned but a few feet below. The fish had little or no fear of the boat, rising to within a few feet of it—near enough to have allowed the use of the gaff had the crew been so disposed; in fact, nearly all sunfishes caught are taken with gaff hooks which are driven into them from boats, the fishes paying no attention to bait of any kind or dead sardines thrown at them.

The waters of Santa Catalina Island have recently provided, in all probability, the largest sunfish ever taken or perhaps seen. It was literally impossible, even with all the available tackle used in lifting huge tunas and black sea bass, to weigh this fish entire or to lift it entirely from the ground, so that its weight was guessed at a "ton," while conservative estimates placed it at from eighteen to nineteen hundred pounds. The exact weight is not of paramount interest, as the photograph of the fish, herewith shown, proves it to have been a giant of its kind and a capture of great interest. It was 10 feet in length and 10 feet high. While ordinarily the fish is very clumsy, this individual made a fight that will be remembered by the captors, boatmen Farnsworth and Elms, of Avalon. The former discovered the fish while fishing from a launch, and determined to attempt its capture. The fish was swimming about, its huge sharklike fin above the surface; yet the launch was steamed alongside and the boatman thrust a heavy gaff into it. Immediately the fish began a series of elephantine struggles which more than once threatened the boat, and for over an hour the boatman held it, hoping to wear it out. Another launch then came to his rescue, and another gaff was hooked into the fish, which now appeared to renew its struggles, hurling

the water over the boats and plunging downward with ponderous strength in a manner that would have deterred some fishermen; but these men held to the fish, and after three hours subdued it and with no little difficulty towed it into port, where it was



THE LARGEST SUNFISH EVER CAUGHT.

Length, 10 feet; height, 10 feet; estimated weight, 1,800 pounds.

measured, photographed, and a futile attempt made to weigh it.

HOW A PYTHON EATS.

BY DR. V. BURTI.

Photographing animals is a difficult enough task; but the photographing of snakes is one that requires unusual patience on account of the extreme restlessness of most reptiles. Usually the only successful way in which to keep the snake quiet in front of the camera is to feed it. While eating, most animals, whether they be wild or tame, hold the prey firmly in the throat, totally oblivious to everything about them.

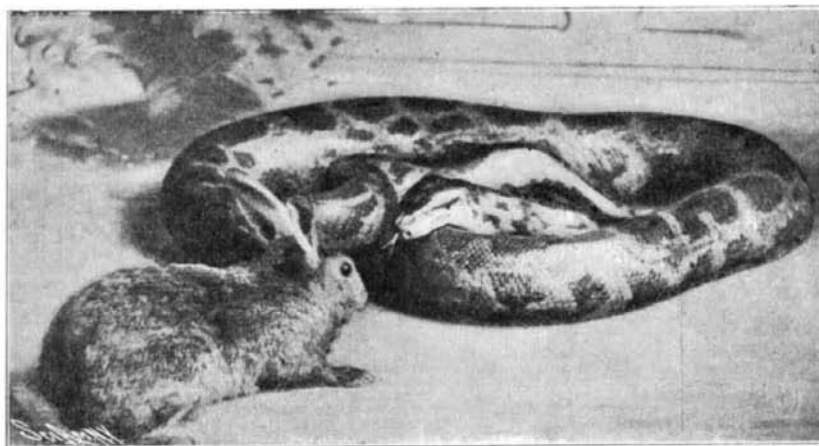
It was thus that the remarkable photographs herewith presented were secured. The reptile pictured is a python twenty feet long, forming part of the collection of the Detroit Scenic Park. Needless to say, not a few plates were ruined before suitable pictures were obtained. After placing the python in a warm room, a

Sense of Smell in Snails.
According to the researches of M. Emile Yung, the sense of smell in the snail seems to be located not only in the feeling organs but all over the body, as experiment proves that the snail can perceive odors by means of sensory cells which are placed in different parts of the body, quite apart from the special organs which might be supposed to be his only means of sensation. The idea of sensory cells of this kind distributed over the body of an animal is an interesting one, and is clearly brought out in M. Yung's experiments, which form the subject of a paper read before the Académie des Sciences. He observes the large snail (*Helix pomatia*) which is common in France. It has been generally admitted since the observations of Moquin-Tandon that the snail has a good sense of smell, and the organ is seated in the terminal button at the end of the large feelers. Hence the term of nasal organ which he gives to the latter, and the expressions olfactory ganglia or rhinophoric, etc., which a number of scientists now use for designating these nerves and ganglia.

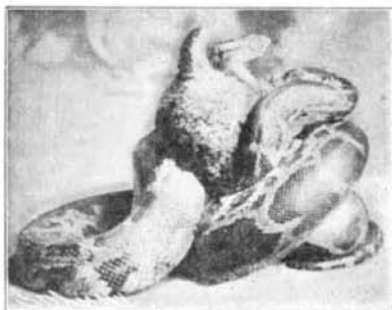
The writer explored the body of the *Helix* with a camel's hair brush dipped in a non-corrosive odorant, such as essence of chamomile. He finds that if the olfactory sensibility exists on the large feelers, it is not localized there exclusively. The small feelers, the under part, and the skin of the back, and in fact the entire surface not covered by the shell, is affected by the odor. The numerous experiments which he made show that the snail is still in the stage of *diffusion* of the olfactory sense, and can in fact smell odors at all parts of his skin, as Cuvier already supposed. The feelers are more sensitive to odors than the back, etc., but contrary to the opinion of Moquin-Tandon, a snail which had its four feelers amputated did not change its manner of living and was able to find its food; it also fled from disagreeable or harmful odors. A microscopic examination of the different nerve cells did not show any reason for giving a special sense to one part of the body to the exclusion of the other. The cells differ from each other by their number only. He considers that the cells are capable of receiving different sensations such as shocks, heat, odors, etc. As to the distance at which the snail can smell odors: He places a dozen or more snails (which have been deprived of

food) in a circle, and puts different kinds of food in the center. When the snail perceives the odor, he is attracted toward the middle. In most cases the attraction took place at a small distance, an inch or more. Distances higher than this were obtained only by foods giving a very strong odor; the greatest effect was obtained with very ripe melon. No substance attracted farther than 16 inches.

Francis Snyder, who was the designer and patentee of a large number



Python and Rabbit Face to Face.



In the Toils.



The Rabbit's Head Disappears.



The Last of the Rabbit.

HOW A PYTHON EATS.

rabbit was presented to him. The reptile, having eaten nothing for some days, was only too eager for the prey. A few seconds of freedom had elapsed, and the poor rabbit fell into the coils of the snake, which squeezed him to death and then swallowed him whole. In exactly twelve minutes the hind foot of the rabbit disappeared down the python's throat.

of toys and similar nursery appliances and who was known as the "Children's Friend," died at his home in New York on September 19, 1903. He was born in France and was sixty-eight years of age. He was at one time interested in politics and was closely associated with the late Ex-President Chester A. Arthur.