Though every care was taken of the cobra eggs, none of them hatched out. One, which was opened, contained a half-grown snake, the heart of which continued to pulsate for about an hour.

The Russell's viper, which had been in captivity for a little over 3 months, gave birth to 16 young ones, of which 3 were dead. The other viper aborted on the 5th July, producing 39 embryos in ill-formed eggs. The membranous covering of the eggs was very thin and transparent, showing the immature vipers coiled up inside them. It will be seen that two of the 3 dead ones of the first batch are also not fully formed. One is not properly uncoiled, the tail half nearly of the body being still attached to the neighbouring coil. The other, though apparently fully formed, shows about two inches of the duct, which in the egg connected the yolk-sac with the intestines, still attached to and entering the body about one inch in front of the vent.

A sequel to the above may be seen in another bottle. The 13 young vipers were kept together in one box. A few days ago, one of the larger ones attempted to swallow one of its companion's head first and choked itself in consequence. As the engulphed snake showed slight signs of putrefaction when found, it is probable that it was dead before its neighbour tried to swallow it.

W. B. BANNERMAN, Lt.-Col., M.D., I.M.S.

Bo. Bact. Laby., Parel, 22*nd July* 1907.

No. XXVII.—PECULIAR PROGRESSION OF A COBRA (*NAIA TRIPUDIANS*).

Mr. Barton Wright has written to our Society on the peculiar progression of a cobra he flushed, and pursued in the Madura District, which he says "moved along like a huge caterpillar, hunching his back, and then using his head as a fulcrum to draw himself along."

It took refuge in a hole, was dug out, and when dislodged repeated the same extraordinary method of locomotion.

N.B.—It is difficult to account for this strange behaviour, which, as far as I am aware, has not been reported before so far as the cobra is concerned. All I have seen moved in the orthodox anguine fashion, *viz.*, by a series of alternate, bilateral, horizontal, undulations, so that the whole belly is parallel to the plane traversed.

It occurs to me to wonder whether this was a normal effort evoked in desperate attempts to hurry, and escape, or whether it was the outcome of some grievous bodily hurt, which had rendered ordinary progression impossible, this strange antic having been acquired in consequence.

It is, however, significant to note that precisely the same movement has been observed in other snakes, and what is possible for one animal seems likely to be repeated by another of similar bodily conformation. Miss Hopley in her book on snakes (p. 184) says: "The black snake of Aus-

tralia (*Hoplocephalus pseudechis*) moves *in pursuit or escape* (the italics are mine, F. W.) almost like leaps. The reptile rapidly extends itself to full length, then brings up its posterior portion in a loop, and so springs forward again."

F. WALL, MAJOR, I.M.S., C.M.Z.S.

DIBRUGARH, ASSAM, 23*rd July* 1907.

No. XXVIII.—VERNACULAR NAMES OF SOME INDIAN DUCKS.

Mr. P. R. Cadell's note under the above title in our Journal (Vol. XVII, p. 1028) prompts me to add the following local names in use about Fyzabad :—

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) ♂	... ...	Lāl sir.
Do. ♀	... ...	Maidi.
Red-headed Pochard (*Nyroca ferina*)	... ...	Tilaira.
White Eye Pochard (*Nyroca ferruginea*)	... ...	Boora.
Pintail (*Dafila acuta*)	... ...	Pashār.
Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) ...	... ...	Myle.
Shove ler (*Spatula clypeata*)	... ...	Pan pan.
Brahminy duck (*Casarca rutila*) ...	... ...	Chakwa Chakwee.
Garganey (*Querquedula circia*) ...	...	Pataira.
Common teal (*Nettion crecca*)	...	
Cotton teal (*Nettopus coromandelianus*)	... ...	Dārrā and Keeun Keeun.

These names were all applied to these ducks on Parbatty Jheel. My mallah was a very knowledgeable man on the subject, and recognised each species with great accuracy during flight, and when brought to bag.

Some of these names did not tally with those in use on other Jheels, and this would imply that the names in some cases are extremely local. I believe, however, that this want of corroboration was more likely due to the incompetency of many of the mallahs to recognise the species, many being too apathetic to care, so long as the sahib got sport, and retrieved his cripples.

My mallah did not discriminate between the garganey and the teal, and seemed surprised when I pointed out the differences, which he accepted with doubt at first.

F. WALL, MAJOR, I.M.S., C.M.Z.S.

DIBRUGARH, ASSAM, 23*rd July* 1907.

No. XXIX.—FRESHWATER SHELLS. AN APPEAL.

SIR,—It is sincerely to be hoped that Mr. Dalgliesh's interesting paper, which appears in this number, will encourage members, in *all parts of the country*, to go to the very small trouble that is required to send us along any freshwater shells they may come across, and so enable us to make a sort of "Survey" of them throughout India and its dependencies. This may seem at first sight a somewhat unnecessary proposal, but the fact is that nearly all freshwater shells are very widely distributed, and are also specially liable to considerable variation, due no doubt to the extreme variety of conditions under which they