

Solferino, is sheltered by a magnificent avenue of plane trees.

The proprietors of the baths pay river rent to the city authorities, the price varying, for the season, from about one cent to three cents a square yard. Naturally, the establishments in close proximity to or within easy reach of densely populated quarters are more remunerative. One of them, for example, the National Swimming Academy, to translate its high sounding title, near the Pont de la Concorde, has "bathed" as many as 2,500 in a single day. This is rather an aristocrat among the grenouillères. A bathing ticket here costs 20 cents. At a neighboring establishment, the Carlier baths, the entrance fee is only six cents, though, as an old swimming master assured me gravely, the water is "la même que chez le voisin" (the same as next door). For the additional sous, however, the bather may watch or participate in games of water polo, may experiment with an ingenious system of vertical and horizontal douches or showers, and after his bath may enjoy a stimulating drink at a little bar while he watches the other swimmers and, possibly, allow the vaguely Saracenic architecture and decorations of the establishment to suggest visions of Eastern magnificence to his imagination.

One form of the grenouillère is for dogs. Close to many of the big river baths there is a sort of unofficial annex. It consists of an expert in bathing, clipping and, if the word is permissible, manuring dogs. His outfit is merely a camp stool, a tub of water, a hair clipper, a pair of scissors and one or two "surgical" instruments, tweezers, a louse and so on. For a couple of cents he will carefully bathe your dog, for a few more will cut his coat in complicated patterns, leaving frills around his paws, a tuft at the end of his tail and artistic "side whiskers" upon his haunches; will overhaul his claws, ears, eyes and turn him out well groomed and smart, a credit to any proprietor. C. I. B.

POSES OF SNAKES.

How Dead Reptiles Are Mounted to Appear Alive.

A new method has been devised for mounting reptiles for exhibition. The oldtime taxidermists, who are said by the new school to have turned out nothing more than awkward caricatures of live animals by the clumsy "stuffing" process, now find their occupation practically gone. In its place has arisen what is called "animal sculpture," whereby the skilled worker is able to depict the original color of a specimen, its general appearance and its natural attitudes assumed in life. These are deftly brought out by modelling in clay; and the adept at this art must, therefore, be a sculptor, naturalist, anatomist and photographer.

In the high tower of the American Museum of Natural History, in the department presided over by Dr. B. A. Dahlgren, Mr. Klein has just completed the first large group of reptiles ever mounted in this way. The presentation of these creatures, illustrating their life in their lairs of forest and cave, together with characteristic scenery, has been both a painstaking and artistic achievement. Hitherto the successful mounting of reptiles has been a difficult and almost impossible task, owing to the peculiar behavior of the skin, which stretches when soft and shrinks when dry, causing the scales, which in life closely overlap each other, to drop off or separate.

For exhibition purposes it has long been the custom to obtain a cast from the dead specimen. This was afterward painted up to imitate the original, the result being an artificial and unlife-like production.

J. C. Ackery, of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, is credited as the first to introduce and demonstrate the new process in this country. The first step is the field exhibition in search of the specimens.

The collector is equipped with a camera as one of his essentials. When a den of snakes has been found numerous photographs are taken, showing the contour of rocks and all the immediate natural surroundings, such as leaves, small plants and shrubs. The spot is visited several times in order to get various poses of the reptiles. After this a raid is made upon the serpents, and by the aid of long, forked sticks, which pin the head down, they are captured and placed alive in tin carrying cases.

The accompanying illustration shows, for example, a rock cave in the Palisades, some two miles from Nyack-on-the-Hudson, which sheltered a large colony of copperheads. While in captivity for some weeks they offered at close range favorable opportunities to observe their characteristics and movements. In order to catch their attitude assumed when about to strike at an object they were purposely angered and made to poise in the actual act of springing on a foe. This pose was caught by pencil and utilized in the finished group. The snakes are then chloroformed and their skins removed and stored in a solution of sulphuric acid, which preserves for an indefinite period all the original bright colors and the general texture of the skin.

From the field photographs and from sketches a miniature model in clay is constructed. The general arrangement and position of the figures are worked out in detail exactly as they will appear in the permanent group. Preparation for modelling the serpent's form in clay and making a plaster cast to receive the skin is then begun. A wire the length of the snake, wrapped to about half its original size with excelsior, is bent to the desired position on the rock surface



A FINISHED REPTILE GROUP. Representing a den of copperheads on the Palisades.

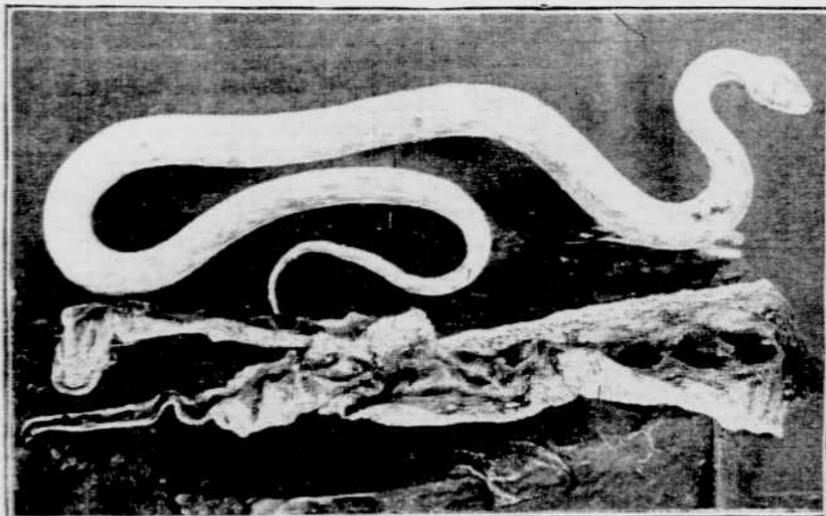
to be used in the finished group. Upon this are applied successive layers of clay, which receive the same careful treatment as would be expended by a sculptor in fashioning the human face or figure. All gradations in anatomy, the minutest detail of proportion, shape and contour, are worked up and vividly brought out.

When this bit of sculpture is regarded fairly perfect the skin is temporarily tried on, and, if necessary, the figure can be immediately altered at such points as improvements are thought

the skin which form the oval shape of the scales. The skin is then carefully adjusted on the cast, especial care being taken not to rub or press too hard on its surface, as the scales come off easily, and after being skilfully smoothed into shape it is finally sewed up. The various individuals, large and small, are then arranged for exhibition amid the actual leaves, dirt and shrubs of their former home.

THE TWO BROTHERS.

Harry Lehr told at Newport a story of two



THE CAST AND THE SKIN READY TO BE SEWN ON.

necessary, before the skin is permanently stitched in place. From this clay figure a plaster mould is made, through which a strong wire is run to strengthen the cast. Plaster is then poured into the mould, and when set the outer material is chipped off, whereupon a light, durable white cast, is obtained. This is an absolute facsimile of the snake's body, and when dry it is treated with shellac and coated with papier maché, one-fifth of an inch thick. The latter fills the little pits under

brothers—the one rich and ugly, the other poor and handsome.

The two brothers sat in a café garden, and the rich one, as he lighted a cigarette, sighed complacently, and said:

"Confound it! All the mothers in New-York are after me. There's no rest."

The other brother, laughing, answered:

"Yes, and all the daughters are after me. We divide the women folk between us."



FITTING THE SKIN OVER THE MANIKIN.

PEACEFUL PORTSMOUTH.

Quiet Town Where Envoys Will Meet—Plans for Their Comfort.

The peace envoys appointed by Russia and Japan are to have an excellent opportunity to study the benign effects of democracy in American town life. They will also be able to see on what foundations of liberty the first beams of this republic were laid. Portsmouth, N. H., where the negotiations preliminary to the signing of a peace treaty are to be conducted, is one of the oldest towns in New-England, and its shady streets and handsome old houses give it a dignity, a feeling of restfulness and an evidence of culture peculiarly characteristic of the earliest American settlements in the North. It is a town of high intellectual ideals. In its streets are to be found museums, libraries and churches unusually large and numerous for a place of such size. For example, it has four times as many books as people. Although its population is hardly more than ten thousand, yet it has two libraries with a total of more than forty thousand volumes.

Portsmouth was settled in 1623, only five years later than Plymouth, and is therefore more than two hundred and eighty years old. It is situated on a peninsula which juts out into the deep, commodious bay at the mouth of the Piscataqua River. The Atlantic Ocean is three miles away. About ten miles to the southeast are the well known Isles of Shoals, a cluster of eight barren, rocky islands, rising out of the swelling bosom of the Atlantic. The largest are Appledore, which has an area of 400 acres, and Star, which contains 150 acres. There are large hotels on the islands, and accordingly the envoys will have ample opportunity to keep cool, for they can spend their nights in well swept hostleries if they do not care to sleep on board the vessels provided for them by the United States government.

Portsmouth also contains several buildings of historic interest, including the old homes of Governors Wentworth and Langdon and the Portsmouth Athenæum.

New-Hampshire's only port has long been the site of a United States navy yard. It is in a new building in this yard that the negotiations will be held. The envoys will be especially free from interference here, for the yard is on an island. Several of the famous frigates of the United States Navy were built here, and among them were the Ranger, of which John Paul Jones was captain, and the Kearsarge. The Constitution, the threatened destruction of which about seventy-five years ago drew from Oliver Wendell Holmes those famous verses, "Old Ironsides," was kept here at one time. The Spanish prisoners, including Admiral Cervera, who were taken at Santiago, were kept at Portsmouth before being returned to Spain.

The envoys are Count Sergius Witte and Baron Roman Romanovitch Rosen, who represent Russia, and Baron Jutaro Komura and Kogoro Takahira, the Japanese plenipotentiaries.

M. Witte, the chief Russian envoy, is the leading liberal statesman of his country. For the last thirteen years he has been one of the strongest personalities in the bureaucracy, although his political fortunes suffered a setback when he was compelled to resign as Minister of Finance, in August, 1903. He is about fifty-six years old and has worked his way up from the position of an underpaid railroad clerk. Personally he is a man of huge stature, big limbed, muscular and more than six feet tall.

Baron Rosen is the newly appointed Russian Ambassador to the United States. The baron comes of Swedish stock, his ancestors having followed the banners of Gustavus Adolphus in the invasion of Muscovy three hundred years ago and settled in Lithuania. The Rosens have given Russia many distinguished generals, diplomats and writers. The baron himself is an accomplished scholar, a talented musician and a linguist, conversant with a half dozen languages.

Baron Komura is the chief Japanese envoy. He is the Foreign Minister of Japan, was educated in the United States and formerly was Japanese Minister at Washington. On leaving the United States Baron Komura went to St. Petersburg as Minister of Japan. As Foreign Minister he had long and delicate negotiations with Baron Rosen, then Russian Minister at Tokio, which culminated in the great struggle which has resulted so disastrously for Russia.

Kogoro Takahira is Japanese Minister to the United States. He was educated at the Imperial College, at Tokio. After occupying an obscure position in the Foreign Office for about three years, he was appointed attaché of the legation at Washington, in 1879. Later he was advanced to be secretary of legation, and served some months as chargé d'affaires. While he was Minister to Italy the Chino-Japanese War broke out, and he rendered valuable services to his country in the negotiations connected with that war.

Should the envoys prefer to deliberate at sea, they have the United States government yacht Mayflower at their disposal. On this ship they will not lack for comfort, for the vessel was built as a pleasure craft, being the property originally of Ogden Golet. It was bought by the United States a short time before the recent war with Spain.

SOCIAL AXIOM.

"I think I will invite the Bronsons; I know they would be glad to come."
"But, my dear, people who would be glad to come are the very ones you should not invite."
—(Puck.)