

**A POPULAR ACCOUNT OF  
AUSTRALIAN SNAKES: WITH A  
COMPLETE LIST OF THE SPECIES  
AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THEIR  
HABITS AND ORGANIZATION**

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A popular account of Australian snakes: with a complete list of the species and an introduction to their habits and organization by Edgar R. Waite

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**EDGAR R. WAITE**

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AUSTRALIAN SNAKES.

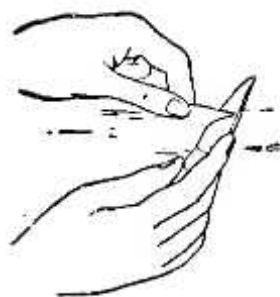


FIG. 1.—Diagram showing method of cutting out bitten part.

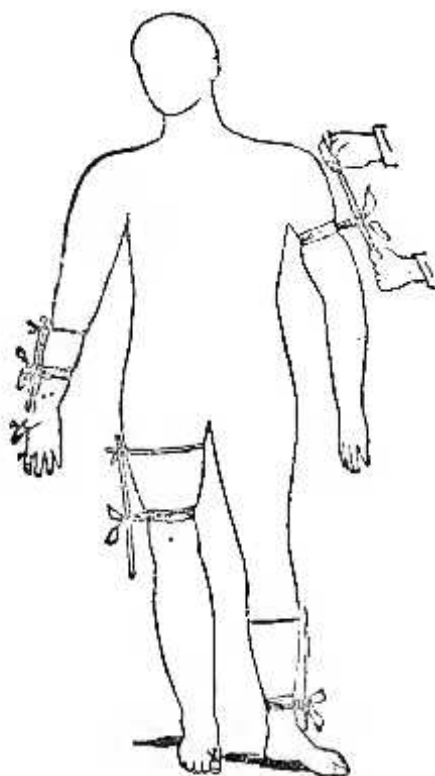


FIG. 2.—Diagram showing method of applying ligatures.

## Treatment of Snake-Bite.

*Recommended by the Board of Health.*

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A ligature, that is, a strong string, tape, narrow strip of clothing or handkerchief, should be tied at once round the limb above the bitten part. When it has been tied, pass a piece of stick under it, and twist it round and round, so as to screw up the ligature as tightly as you can. Leave the stick in the twisted ligature, and secure the end by another string, as shown in the figure (2). Great pain and swelling are caused by this, but cannot be avoided.

At the end of half-an-hour, undo the ligature for five minutes ; then tie and screw up again. At the end of another half-hour, the ligature may be removed altogether.

In places where a ligature cannot be tied, as on the neck or face, pinch up the bitten part between the finger and thumb, and cut it out (Figure 1).

In any case the bitten part should be cut into by numerous little cuts over and around the bites for about half an inch around, and sucked by the mouth freely and perseveringly ; and this can be done without danger by any person.

Stimulants, such as brandy, whisky, gin, rum, in small quantities at a time (a few teaspoonfuls), or strong tea or coffee, or wine, may be given if the patient be faint.

Do no more to the patient than is advised above, but obtain the services of a medical man.

“Adder’s fork, and blind-worm’s sting.”

—MACBETH, *Act IV., Scene 1.*



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## PREFACE.

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THE only work which, to the time of its publication, 30 years ago, deals exclusively and exhaustively with the subject, is Krefft's admirable "Snakes of Australia." This book is out of print, and, in consequence of additions to the known fauna, also out of date.

The present publication is not intended to be exhaustive, nor does it aim at replacing its more pretentious and expensive predecessor. It deals in a popular manner with the better known snakes, both venomous and harmless, and colored illustrations and figures in the text of such are furnished. The names, distribution, and dimensions only of the lesser known species are given, as a more detailed account would swell the pages beyond the scope of the book. Some account of the habits and organisation of snakes in general will be found in part I.

As indicating the progress made in our knowledge during the past 30 years, it may be mentioned that whereas Krefft recorded 21 innocuous and 42 venomous land snakes, the figures of today, as shown in the following pages, are 31 and 62 respectively, the proportion being exactly maintained; the number of sea snakes has been reduced from 15 to 12.

SYDNEY, *October*, 1898.

E.R.W.

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