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One of the grandest features of the Homoeopathic science is the faculty it possesses of pointing out the soul of good in things hitherto deemed entirely evil. From time immemorial the serpent has been looked upon as the very embodiment of the principal of evil; and though the symbolism of the serpent has been adopted of old as the insignia of the Healing art, it is rather, I imagine, taken as representing the evil power the healer contends against, than one of the means he is supposed to employ. It is true that various parts of serpents have been used in compounding the wondrous concoctions which were in favour one or two centuries ago; and savage tribes have used preparations of serpent venom in various ways as a means of affording protection against the effects of serpents' bites*; but it was not until the genius

of Apis, that it is no longer necessary to apologise for our use of serpent venom as a medicine introduced to through the ordinary channel." "Not necessary to apologise"! indeed it is not: their use is one of our proudest possession. But the very fact of Dr. Hughes writing in this strain shows how completely we have the field to ourselves.

In addition to *Lachesis Trigonocephalus*, the lanceheaded viper of Brazil, and the rattlesnake *Crotalus Horridus*, both of which were introduced into homoeopathic medicine by Constantine Hering; and *Crotalus Cascavella*, proved and introduced by Mure in 1839 we have *Naja Tripudians*, the *Cobra di Ciapello* or hooded snake of Hindustan a colubrine snake of the Elapidae family, introduced by Drs. Rutherford Russel and Adrian Stokes, who made the first provings; *Elaps Corollinus*, the Brazilian coral viper, first proved by Mure and again by Lippe; *Vipera*, the common viper of Germany, Italy and England, otherwise known as the aspic or adder, the poison of which has not been proved in the ordinary way, the pathogenesis recorded in Allen being made up of the effects observed in bitten persons; *Bothrops Lanceolatus*
John Henry Clarke

*Therapeutics of the Serpent Poison*

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