

HAS POISONOUS SNAKES

HAS RATTLES AND WATER MOCCASINS—ALSO NUMBER OF HARMLESS ONES

Will Soon Have Five Representatives of the Pit Vipers—Will do Research Work With Some of Them This Summer

In the office of Professor Howard K. Gloyd are to be found many interesting snakes. Not only are there native reptiles but also two which have been secured from Houston, Texas.

One of the latter is a water moccasin or cotton-mouth snake, the only poisonous water snake in North America. It is not known to occur in Kansas. It is closely related to the Copperhead, two of which are displayed. For some time after its arrival the water moccasin ate heartily, eating two banded water snakes, a frog and a mouse within two days—but it has now lost its voracious habits and refuses to eat.

The Copperhead or Highland Moccasin frequents a rocky terrestrial habitat. When encountered in its native haunts it usually attempts flight but is dangerous to man. A large specimen may reach a length of three feet.

The other snake from Texas is a Western Diamond Rattlesnake and is one of the largest species.

To complete the list of venomous snakes there are six timber rattlesnakes, ranging in size from fourteen inches to four feet. They were taken by Professor Gloyd and George Saip accompanied by Professor Bennett and Albin Dahlquist, on Middle Creek about seven miles from Ottawa. This is the species commonly found in rocky timberland in Eastern Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

There will soon be added to the list a prairie Rattlesnake, making five representatives of the pit vipers.

Numerous harmless snakes occupy another cage. Among them are one common hog-nosed snake, also called spreading adder or puff viper, three

Pilot Black snakes; one Evan's king snake; two speckled king's snakes; one garter snake; two bull snakes; three banded water snakes; two Graham's water snakes and two blue racers. These snakes are mostly beneficial and eat enough rodents to more than balance the few birds and eggs they may catch.

The small snakes represented are: two Emory's Colubers, one De Kay's snake and three storer's snakes. These storer's snakes are very rare only two being known to occur in Kansas by the herpetologist of considerable note.

Of the lizards, there is one colored lizard and eight skinks.

Mr Gloyd is planning to do research on some of these snakes.

They may be seen after 4.30 or by asking permission at the office.
