

The Guetares were a tribe of moderately high culture in the interior. One of their cemeteries was excavated by Mr. Alfaro, and a large amount of material obtained. They were skilful in dressing stone, and one of their tables (or seats?) pictured in the report is remarkable for symmetry and finish. It is forty centimeters high and seventy-one in diameter. As goldsmiths they were not equal to the tribes near the Chiriqui lagoon, and decidedly inferior to those of Colombia, the Chibchas and Quimbayas. Their pottery, a number of specimens of which are figured, was superior in design and technique. It was of curious forms, and often ornamented with figures in polychrome.

The affiliations of the Guetares are still uncertain, as, except a few proper names, we have no specimen of their language, and they are apparently extinct.

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#### ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

*The Astronomical Journal* of October 6th contains the announcement by Dr. See of his re-discovery of the companion of Sirius at the Lowell observatory. The other astronomers of the observatory have also seen and measured the companion. Dr. See says that, according to these measures, the companion has fallen no less than 30 degrees behind its predicted place in position angle. We suspect that this statement may be due to a misprint or a slip of the pen.

WE have received Vol. IV. of the publications of the Kuffner observatory in Vienna. It contains zone observations between 6° and 10° south declination, together with mean positions derived from them. There are also descriptions, by Messrs. Repsold, of the new prime vertical instrument of the observatory, which is provided with a vertical circle, and of the new heliometer.

Dr. S. Oppenheim contributes to the volume a paper on special periodic solutions in the problem of three bodies, and Dr. de Ball has an investigation of the orbit of Comet 1882 III. H. J.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A SCIENTIFIC session of the National Academy of Sciences will be held in New York, at Columbia University, beginning November 17th, 1896, at 11 o'clock a. m. Members who have papers for this meeting may send the titles to Dr. C. F. Chandler, Columbia University, New York City. A special stated session of the Academy is called for Wednesday, November 18th, in New York, to consider the President's Annual Report to Congress, and other business that may come before the Academy.

THE Honolulu correspondent of the United Associated Presses writes that Mr. C. R. Bishop has authorized the trustees of the Bishop Museum to expend \$750,000 in building an aquarium and marine biological station at Honolulu, for the scientific study of marine life in the Pacific. Prof. W. T. Brigham has just returned from visiting European aquariums and is prepared to complete the plans. A body of professors and investigators will be maintained, and students will doubtless be attracted from Europe and America.

MAJOR J. W. POWELL and Mr. Frank Hamilton Cushing have recently completed a season's archæologic work on the coast of Maine. A number of interesting shell mounds were explored, and their contents are now *en route* to Washington for installation in the National Museum. In addition to the artifacts exhumed from the shell mounds, the collectors were able to obtain, through the aid of the Passamaquoddy or Abenaki Indians, an aboriginal birch-bark lodge, constructed by the natives in primitive fashion, native implements being chiefly employed in its construction.

DR. ALBERT S. GATSCHET, also of the Bureau of American Ethnology, has recently returned from an ethnologic trip through eastern Maine and contiguous parts of British territory. His scientific results include a rich collection of