The shortest tribes are the African pygmies, who stand about 1.30 meters. In America no tribe is mentioned with an average under 1.60. The tallest are undoubtedly American, some (doubtful) Caribs of the Orinoco at 1.84, and the Tehuelche, of Patagonia, at 1.78.

The article on the weight gives abundant information about the relative weight of the brain and other organs.

Both articles contain a very complete bibliography of the recent scientific literature of the subjects.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COSTA RICA.

Largely owing to the energy of the Director Señor Anastasio Alfaro, the large archæological and ethnographic collection brought together by the government of Costa Rica has now been commodiously installed in a building erected for the purpose at San José de Costa Rica. A photograph of it is reproduced in *La Revista Nueva* for October last.

Few localities on our continent offer better specimens of aboriginal pottery and stone work that are discovered within the area of Costa Rica, as was abundantly illustrated at the Columbian Exposition at Madrid. A beautiful example of a decorated jar is given in the journal of the date mentioned, and also the outlines of a number of others.

In spite of the careful studies of Manuel de Peralta on the ancient tribes of Costa Rica, we still remain ignorant of the language and affinities of the tribe which seems to have left the most abundant remains—the Guetares.

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NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

In the last *Berichte* F. Giesel describes an interesting instance of what are probably solid solutions. A little more than a year ago Goldstein showed that the halid salts of the alkali metals take on a more or less intensive color under the influence of kathode rays. Giesel obtains the same result by heating the salts in closed glass tubes at a very low red heat in sodium or potassium vapor. Bromid and iodid of potassium are colored a beautiful blue, chlorid of potassium or sylvine a dark heliotrope, chlorid of sodium or rock salt yellow or brown. The color is not superficial, as clear crystals of potassium bromid a centimeter cube are uniformly colored. The coloration seems to be due to the solution of the metallic sodium or potassium in the solid salt. It is thought probable by Giesel that the blue coloration of rock salt is due to dissolved sodium. Attempts to color in a similar way clear crystals of fluorspar were not successful.

In continuing his investigations into the occurrence of gold in nature, Professor Liversidge finds the metal in all natural saline deposits. Rock salt and other natural salts contain from one to two grains of gold per ton, while bittern waters and kelps furnished in some cases from fourteen to twenty grains.

Professor Liversidge has also examined the structure of gold nuggets from many different sources, by polishing and etching sections. He finds that all nuggets possess a well-marked crystalline structure and usually contain foreign substances. He suggests that the gold has been slowly deposited from aqueous solution and that the nuggets are more or less rolled masses of gold which have been set free from disintegrated veins.

J. L. H.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

RESEARCH AND THE UNIVERSITY.

An editorial note in the February number of the *American Naturalist* has been quoted with approval in several journals. We also reproduce this note, partly in order to give it such