

## CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

## LANGUAGES OF HONDURAS.

THE Spanish spoken in Central America has been examined by various writers, notably Ferraz, Berendt and Barbarena. On that which prevails in Honduras a careful study has lately appeared from the pen of Alberto Membreno. It is a well printed volume of 270 pages. Many of the words quoted as peculiar are derived from the native dialects. The author, therefore, has collected, in an appendix of 75 pages, a number of vocabularies and grammatical notices of these idioms. They are seven in number, to wit, the Moreno, Zambo, Sumo, Paya, Jicaque, Lenco and Chorti. He prefaces these with a brief sketch of the present condition of the native tribes in the republic. The ethnographic value of the volume is considerable ('Hondureñismos,' Tegucigalpa, 1897).

## THE RUINS OF MEXICO.

In the *Archiv für Ethnographie* for January there is a description of the ruins of the native city Mixco, in Guatemala, by Dr. Carl Sapper. This was one of the ancient strongholds destroyed by Alvarado in 1525. There has been some uncertainty as to what branch of the great Maya stock inhabited it, but it would appear to have been the chief city of the Pokomams or their near relatives.

In Dr. Sapper's article he introduces a ground plan with elevations of the fortress and town, adding detailed illustrations of several of the ruins, in part restored. While exhibiting some peculiarities of architecture, a general comparison with other remains of the Mayas permits us to class it with the relics of that cultured people. Dr. Sapper remarks that the ruins in north-western Honduras are purely Mayan in type and in details.

## ETHNOGRAPHY OF CUBA.

In connection with our present contest

concerning Cuba it may be worth while to note that a Spanish professor, Dr. Vidal y Careta, printed last year an article of some length in the scientific periodical *La Naturaleza*, No. 8, on the different races who have successively occupied that island or migrated to it within the historic period. He begins by calling the aboriginal stock 'Caribs.' In this point it may be asked whether he is not in a popular error. There appears no evidence that the great Carib stock of South America ever established permanent settlements anywhere in Cuba, although they undoubtedly made predatory incursions against its inhabitants. These certainly belonged to the Arawack stock of the south. In reference to later time Professor Vidal offers less which can be criticised.

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## ASTROPHYSICAL NOTES.

FROM the measurement of 234 out of 400 solar photographs taken from 1891 to 1894 by several Russian observers, Stratonoff, of Taschkent, has recently contributed, in the *Memoirs of the St. Petersburg Academy*, a valuable study of the movements of the solar faculæ. The principal difficulty in such work is in identifying the faculæ on successive days. 103 faculæ were observed on two days, and 5 on three days. The methods of reduction are given in full, and the accuracy of the measures is indicated by the full data for four plates. A list is given of 1062 faculæ for which the angle of daily rotation was determined. In the zone of solar latitude  $0^{\circ}$  to  $10^{\circ}$  the angle was found to be  $14^{\circ}.6$ , and in the zone  $30^{\circ}$  to  $40^{\circ}$ ,  $13^{\circ}.6$ , with probable errors less than  $0^{\circ}.1$ .

The conclusion is reached that the faculæ move at distinctly different angular rates in different solar latitudes, but under a more complicated law than in case of spots. The