

been remodeled by man. We landed at its eastern point, and soon stood on the first mound. A rapid survey showed us that every square foot of the island had been under the hand of man. On the low east and west points were mounds around courts; the high central part had been terraced, and on its top were a series of mounds.

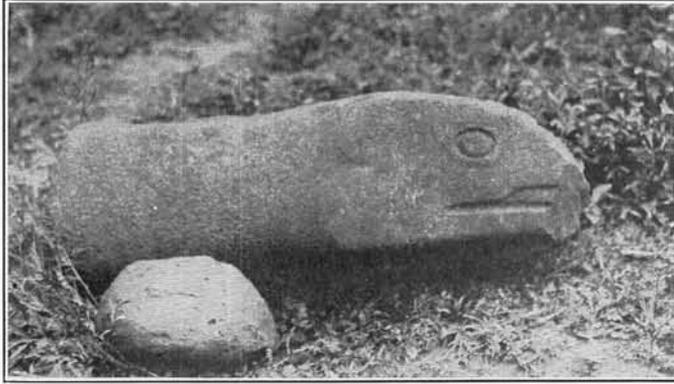


FIG. 25—Matacanela, Ver. Serpent's Head of Stone.

In vain we searched for monuments. But in several places we found walls built of a coarse-grained stone, easy to carve into square blocks, and used to this day by the inhabitants for their houses.

The court on the eastern point was the most interest-

ing. A truncated pyramid lay to the east, and from this a raised road led to the northeastern-most point of the island, apparently a ceremonial road. To the west of the pyramid was a court in which we found one stone which may have served as a monument.

The island lies in a position where it can be seen from every mountain pass leading into the Catemaco Basin, and it is also visible from nearly every place on the lake shore. A more excellent and dominating location could hardly be found on which to build a place of worship.

In between these visits to ruins we had arranged for horses and pack animals for our trip over the mountains, and Mr. Hagmaier's help again proved valuable. He placed us in communication with a Mexican, Don Juan Brisueño, caretaker of the Cuezalapa cattle ranch. He was a tall, slow-spoken man who had gone through the



FIG. 26—Matacanela, Ver. Circular Altar.