

lines down the back. The head was well carved, somewhat broader at bottom than top, and well rounded, giving the impression of a



FIG. 39—Piedra Labrada, Ver. Small grinding stone in form of animal.

bald-headed person when seen from in front (fig. 40). This piece of sculpture is very interesting. There is something about it that reminds one of the much smaller Tuxtla Statuette, and it also shows similarity to some small green stone idols in various collections, as well as one seen by us in Comitán at a later stage in our journey. Though the hieroglyphs on the

Tuxtla Statuette are Maya, the statuette itself was executed by a people of another culture.

A rough plan was made of the structures, and for a short moment we enjoyed the view from one of the mounds over the forest to the blue waters of the Gulf. Then the itching of millions of tick bites drove us back to camp where we at once stripped and started the slow process of removing the insects with a concoction of tobacco leaves soaked in alcohol. The little wretches disliked this treatment and fell off, but left wounds which could be felt for some time after.

As we woke up the next morning it was raining again, so we got hold of the son-in-law of the house and, as he was a little more intelligent than the rest of the family, we succeeded in getting a short list of words of his language. The settlement here is a Popoluca outpost. The inhabitants migrated to this place in the old man's time from Ocotal Grande.

Our informant was very ill. He could not be more than 23, but looked 35 to 40 years old, and walked with difficulty; his limbs were thin and withered, and he could not eat without becoming nauseated and vomiting.



FIG. 40—Piedra Labrada, Ver. Fragment of female idol.