

INTRODUCTION.

SALVADOR.

This small Republic lies south of Honduras, with which it is conterminous, and has a comparatively low seaboard of alluvial plains. It consists chiefly of a tableland of about 2000 feet in height, broken by a number of volcanic cones of more recent origin than the main Cordillera, which lies further north, within the Honduras boundary. It is well watered and the natural forests are said to have been to a great extent destroyed for the cultivation of the land. Only a very small amount of our material has been obtained here, and, judging from the configuration of the country, but little that is peculiar need be expected.

NICARAGUA.

The chief geographical feature of Nicaragua is the remarkable depression stretching from the Pacific to the Atlantic and transversely to the central plateau, which it completely interrupts. This depression lies at a mean elevation of about 100 feet above the sea-level and is partially occupied by two lakes—the smaller one, Managua, sixteen feet above the larger, Nicaragua, together stretching some 150 miles from north-west to south-east, and finally discharging their waters into the Atlantic by the San Juan River at the southern point of the Mosquito coast. The highest mountains, called the Maribros, which are insignificant in comparison with those of some of the countries here described, are chiefly clustered in the small area between the end of Lake Managua and Fonseca Bay. There are also the volcanoes of Masaya and Mombacha near Granada, and the two volcanic islands of Zapatera and Ometépe in Lake Nicaragua, the latter with its twin peaks Ometépe (4100 feet) and Madera (4190 feet), which at times are more or less active. The little-known region of rugged savannas and plateaux, beyond the mining-districts of Matagalpa and Chontales, whence the chief of our Nicaraguan collections came, occupies about one-half of Nicaragua between the lacustrine depression and the low swampy Mosquito coast; this is drained by several rivers, all flowing eastward, the chief of them being the Escondido. No certain information is available as to the distribution of forests.

COSTA RICA.

South of the lakes of Nicaragua the mountain-range rises again in the N.W. of Costa Rica and is studded with volcanic peaks. Beginning from the north, Orosi