

CENOTES.

Although coming continually across this word in these pages, a descriptive paragraph dedicated to the special subject, will be found unique, curious and interesting.

It has already been stated that this term is bestowed indiscriminately, whether upon open holes in the ground, or underground caves, but this is decidedly incorrect, as open holes are properly called "aguadas," or as in Biblical writ, "pools" so without room for discussion, the true acceptation is an underground cave of water, although the term has been applied even to "where waters appear to the light of day."

Cenotes are to be found in many parts of the State, a few of which, can only be alluded to here. The natural beauty of some of these is very striking, for instance, taking that of Mucuyché, on the road to Uxmal, with its roof of broken over-hanging rock, impenetrable to the sun's rays and therefore always cool, covered with all forms of stalactites imaginable, with water as clear a crystal, still and deep, and resting on a bed of white lime stone rock. Stephens was enraptured, he called it the very creation of romance, a bathing place for Diana and her nymphs, and remarks Grecian poet never imagined so beautiful a scene, it seemed like profanation, but in a few minutes he and his companions were swimming around the rocky basin, with feelings of boyish exultation, and only regretting that such a freak of nature was placed where so few could enjoy its beauties.

But when nature is assisted by art, the result is indescribably beautiful, as has been demonstrated in the cenote of Zodzil, "The Bat's Cave," a beautiful country residence, about eight miles from Merida, on the Progreso Road, and belonging to the recent Governor of the State, Don Olegario Molina, the combination of the

