THE NICARAGUA CANAL ROUTE.

This attention which the problem of connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by means of a ship canal is now attracting lends an interest to any information concerning the Isthmian region and affords an excuse for the publication in SCIENCE of matter more fully published in other less widely circulated media.*

Exact information concerning the Nicaragua Canal Route is derived chiefly from four surveys of the region, made with a view to determining the best route for a ship canal. The first was made by Colonel Childs, in the interest of the Vanderbilt Transit Company, which held a concession from the Nicaraguan government for constructing a canal. The second was made by Commander Lull, under instructions from the Secretary of the Navy. These two surveys amounted to a good reconnaissance and served to show that no insurmountable obstacles were to be met with. The third survey was that made by the Maritime Canal Company, under the direction of Chief Engineer A. G. Menocal. This extended over several years, and was much more comprehensive than either of the

