

Indian Architecture.

THE simple constructions of the tribes N. of Mexico, although almost exclusively practical in their purpose, serve to illustrate many of the initial steps in the evolution of architecture; they are hence worthy of careful consideration by the student of culture history. Various branches of the building arts are treated separately under appropriate heads (see *Adobe*, *Cliff-dwellings*, *Earth-lodge*, *Fortifications*, *Pueblos*, *Tipis*,) but as these topics are there considered mainly in their ethnologic aspects, they will here be briefly treated as products of environment and as illustrations of the manner in which beginnings are made and the higher architectural forms are evolved. The kind and character of the buildings in a given district or region depend on a number of conditions, namely: (a) The capacity, habits, and characteristics of the people; (b) the cultural and especially the social status of the particular peoples; (c) the influence of neighboring cultures; (d) the physiography of the district occupied; (e) the resources, animal, vegetal, and mineral, and especially the building materials available within the area; (f) climate. These in the main are the determining factors in the art development of all peoples in all times, and may be referred to somewhat at length.

(1) In these studies it is necessary that the man himself and especially his mental capacities and characteristics should be considered as essential elements of the environment, since he is not only the product, as is his culture, of present and past environments, but is the primary dynamic factor in all culture development.

(2) The culture status of the people—the particular stage of their religious, social, technical, and esthetic development—goes far toward determining the character of their buildings. The manner in which social status determines the character of habitations is dwelt on by Morgan (Cont. N. A. Ethnol., IV. 1881), to the apparent exclusion of other criteria. Within the area N. of Mexico the various phases