

pliable, partaking of the nature of bags. Where the lithe willow, or Osier, abounds, both its branch and bark have been used, the larger stems forming the frame and the lighter twigs the filling; these baskets generally stand upright and take the shape of pots, jars and vases, according to their purpose. The fibre of the Yucca—the soap plant or Spanish bayonet—and many of the cacti have been used in this manufacture. The keen-sighted Indian women readily finds in the mountain valleys and along the water courses the proper material to make into the plastic wands which she so deftly weaves into these graceful vessels. They are very skillful at splitting the stems of the willow, the osier, the sauvis, the swamp ash, the vine maple and other long-fibred, quick-growing plants, and preserving this material for use when needed. The proper season for gathering the material is when the stalk has just completed its growth and before the sap hardens into woody substance. The long withes split from the rods are rolled up and protected from too much heat or moisture; just before using they are thoroughly soaked in water and woven while wet and soft. This plastic wool is so firmly beaten down that a new basket, of the finer makes, will hold water for some time; to make them permanent water jars, either for household use or for transporting water on their journeys, the interstices are filled with pitch from pine or fir trees. The wide-topped baskets are sometimes called corn baskets, and were used to gather and hold the crop of Maize which was indigenous to America and the great staple of food; they were also used to collect the Pinion nut and sweet Acorn from the Pine forests and Oak groves of New Mexico, Arizona and Old Mexico, and also the Camas and Wocus of the Northern Indians. The shallower baskets were used to hold meal and to mix their bread in; the plaques as plates to hold food. Indians, in their native state, either sedentary or nomadic, never sit at a table to eat; when they don't use their fingers entirely they take their food on a plaque, holding the plaque on their knees. The small bowl-like baskets are used interchangeably for head cover-