

few days only, and a gold medal is awarded in turn for a medical, natural history, and social lecture.

Budapest has been occupied by many races, and has undergone many and strange vicissitudes. The Celts held the city until the Romans came. Under their rule it acquired some importance until it was overcome by the hordes from the East,—Slavs, Huns and Goths. The only remaining trace of their occupation is the Slavish names—Buda and Pest. Next came the Hungarians or Magyars, who flourished and built up the city until the Tartar invasion laid the town in ruins in 1241. It soon recovered, however, and for a short time attained the dignity of the residence of the German Emperor.

Periods of prosperity and trouble succeeded each other until 1541, when the Turks conquered the city, and for 145 years the crescent waved over the fort on the hill of Buda. Charles of Lorraine, at the head of the allied armies, finally drove out the invaders, but it was a long time before the city recovered from its prolonged misrule. To add to its troubles, a terrible epidemic almost depopulated the town in 1710. In Pest only 300 inhabitants were left. Gradually but steadily the capital has overcome all difficulties and progressed, until now its fine streets, buildings, and advancement, are the admiration of all visitors. It is still, however, undeniably influenced by its Eastern neighbours.

Many of the buildings are Byzantine in character and there is frequently to be seen a bizarre decorative effect decidedly Oriental. Designs in coloured tilings, terra cotta work, and painting in bright colours ornament many exteriors.

One sees some very good examples of Renaissance style, and others again are pure Venetian. The true Hungarian architecture resembles that of Northern Europe in form, but the peculiar ornamental tiling, while not unlike that of Venice and the East, is distinctly original in effect. The Museum of Decorative Art is the only large building in Budapest in the pure Hungarian style. More characteristic than any other feature of ornamentation in Hungary, one sees the peacock feather, particularly the eye of the peacock feather and the onion pattern. In lace, china, embroidery, interior and exterior decorations, these designs are to be found.

The country people excel in a picturesque embroidery. Well-to-do rural families always have an elaborate funeral pall, like a curtain, of solid embroidery, which is kept in families for generations.

A number of fine statues enhance the beauty of the city, the newest of which was unveiled in the City Park during the Convention. It represented George Washington, and many Americans gathered to wit-