

style of building is largely maintained. Even the terminus of a suburban street railway runs into an enclosure with great iron gates, which are locked at night.

One of the things one is told he must not fail to see in Mexico is the extremely interesting Vega Canal, with its so-called "floating gardens." Here one can best study the picturesque customs and costumes of the peasant people. An endless succession of flat-bottomed market boats laden with tomatoes, oranges, lemons, and many other fruits and bright-coloured flowers, supply the markets of the great city. Rather squalid-looking villages skirt the canal, which reminded one more of a Kaffir kraal than of aught else. The rude shacks are built of bamboo, with wattled walls and straw roofs, and the garb and appearance of the people conform thereto. Some were dressed, or half-dressed, in



BORDA GARDEN, CUERNAVACA, MEXICO.

rude sacking, others in coarse cotton, but many looked strikingly picturesque in their sombreros and serapes. The native rain cloak is made of corn husks, and its wearer looks like a perambulating shock of corn.

The most hateful spectacle in Mexican towns and cities is the pulque shops which abound at almost every corner of the native quarter. These are painted in garish and gaudy colours, often with rude pictures of Bacchanalian scenes. The pulque is the fermented juice of the maguey plant. Hundreds of puncheons are brought into town every day by the railway trains, and it is often distributed to these pulque shops in bloated and disgusting-looking pig-skins. The smell is abominable. It is intoxicating, and its use becomes a passion with the natives, who can get drunk for a cent or two.

One of our cuts shows a peon sucking the juice with a gourd, with which he then fills his pig-skin.

Among the ridiculous names of the pulque shops are the following :



HUGE LIVE-OAK, MEXICO.