

Methodist Magazine and Review.

MARCH, 1903.

MEMORIES OF MEXICO.

BY THE EDITOR.



PATIO OF HOTEL ITURBIDE, MEXICO.



A VISIT to Mexico is much like a visit to Spain. There is much the same physical environment — an elevated plateau with saw-teeth-like Sierras of mountain background, bright sunlight, fathomless blue sky, and a vivid, glossy, subtropical foliage. On every side is heard the soft Andalusian speech, religious processions pass through the streets, the churches are ablaze with gilding and an ignorant peasant population kneel at their altars.

But Mexico is in a state of transition. It has undergone a marvellous development under the government of President Diaz, in which case it departs from its resemblance to

Spain. It is one of the living, not one of the dying nations.

Mr. Lummis, in an admirable volume entitled, "The Awakening of a Nation," says:

"Among all the mistakes of foreigners as to Mexico, none is more common than that which disparages its government. I do not know anything in history which fairly parallels these twenty years in Mexico. It is not far to remember when there was not a railroad in Mexico, and when other material conditions were in proportion. The actual Mexico has forty railroads, with nearly seven thousand miles of track, and everything that that implies. It is netted with telegraph lines (with the cheapest tariff in America), dotted with post-offices, schools, costly buildings for public business and public beneficence. It