



DRAWING PULQUE FROM MAGUEY PLANT, MEXICO.

some of the most magnificent cypress trees that we have ever seen. They have a sombre grandeur that is wonderfully impressive. From the marble-flagged terraces of the castle, or, better still, from its roof-garden, where a magnificent display of flowers blooms perennially, is a view of remarkable grandeur of the shining towers and domes of the city of Mexico, the great plain in which it stands, and the snow-capped mountains in the background. This eminence was a pleasure resort of the Montezumas, and later of the no less unhappy Maximilian. In the museum is the finest collection in existence of Aztec monuments and memorials.

The principal promenade is the Alameda, embellished with many fountains and eleven "glorietas," or summer pavilions, and here good military music is often heard.

The city of Mexico is far within the tropics, below the twentieth degree of latitude. At noon the sun was vertically overhead, yet so

great is its altitude, nearly eight thousand feet above the sea, that though the direct sunlight was hot, the shade was delightfully cool, and in the evening a light overcoat and blankets on the bed were necessary. At the same date the people of Toronto were sweltering under a hot wave.

It was a genuine surprise to note what splendid two-story electric cars plied through the city and far out into the suburbs. From the upper deck one had a broad view over the country and into the lovely gardens on either side. Till recent years, so great was the peril of robbery by bandits and burglars that the haciendas or farm buildings were surrounded by a high stone wall, which was often loop-holed for musketry. Into these all the implements were brought at night, and all the farm produce was conveyed, and here the labourers lived in squalid hovels. Although law and order now are admirably administered, still the old