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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CLIMATE AND ARCHITECTURE

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Authority on Meteorology

A fine example of the adaptation of domestic architecture to climate is found in the mud or adobe block houses characteristic of the Mexican villages of the southwestern United States. J. W. Hoover, of the Arizona State Teachers' College, thus describes them in the Scientific Monthly:

"The thick adobe walls, roof and floor are effective insulation from the glaring heat of the desert. Deep-set windows in thick walls admit little or no direct sunlight, and from the heat of the desert the cool dim light is inviting. During the heated part of the day doors and windows are closed and the house remains very comfortably cool until lengthening shadows break the glare of the sun and the heat begins to moderate. During the night the temperatures drop from 25 to 35 degrees or even more, and the house is again effectively cooled for the coming day.

"It seldom rains; so the pitched roof of rainy or ^{snowy} climes is not needed. The roof is commonly built by laying beams or rafters on top of the walls. Across these, poles are laid close together. These, covered with grass or weeds, support in turn a few inches thickness of earth. Such a roof may suffer severe erosion during occasional sporadic downpours characteristic of the desert; or, if there is an unusual rainy period, the roof and even the walls may become soaked, and the house with contents seriously damaged."

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