

## HUNGARIAN ARCHITECTURE AND DECORATION. BY A. S. LEVETUS.

**H**UNGARIAN architecture and decorative art is rapidly becoming known beyond the frontiers of Hungary. Through the articles published in *THE STUDIO* and *THE STUDIO YEAR BOOKS OF DECORATIVE ART*, other countries have become acquainted with the fact that in modern art and all pertaining to it, Hungary is far from being in the background; and consequently the leading architects and decorative artists in Vienna (among them being Professor Otto Wagner and Gustav Klimt), irrespective of creed, have lately visited Budapest for the purpose of studying matters artistic for themselves, and they have come away highly satisfied with what they had seen. Moreover, several foreign publications are also interesting themselves in the matter, so that Hungary may fairly be said to be taking a place among those countries assisting in the development of modern art.

Undoubtedly both Fézel and Lechner, the fathers of modern architecture in Hungary, are great men. At the late exhibition in Rome Lechner was awarded the gold medal, the chief of all prizes devoted to modern architecture, while L. and J. Vágo gained the silver medal: these latter are, however, of the present generation. Many of the younger men are doing excellent work, Béla Lajta has been entrusted with the building of a Home for Aged Jewish Poor in Budapest (pp. 244-5). The building is characteristic, the decoration being purely Hungarian in style. Though from the exterior it is somewhat imposing, it is eminently "dwellable," and suited to its purpose. The gardens are beautifully arranged, no detail has been forgotten, and the whole scheme has been carried out with sympathy and understanding for those who are to reside there.

To Hassz and Málnai has been entrusted the building of many residential flats and villas. Here, too, excellent work has been done, for while retaining Hungarian characteristics, the buildings are in every way modern, and, moreover, not only as regards the architecture, but also as regards comfort. Others of the younger generation actively employed are the brothers Jonas, Körösif Kiss, Lajos Kozma, Tory and Pogany, and E. Wigand, who is still busy in Maros-Vásárhely, where he is engaged in erecting a "Palace of Culture." This will be a most interesting edifice, for Wigand has, during the last three or four years, been especially occupied in studying ancient Hungarian architecture and methods of building in this part of the country. When it is said that artists of the recognised standing of Aladár Kriesch-Köröfői are engaged in designing the mosaics, and that other eminent Hungarian designers