



FIRST FLOOR, HALL 102.

#### CASES 17-29

PLAINS INDIANS.—The decorative art of the Plains Indians resembles in some characteristic features that of the tribes of the interior of British Columbia, although its technique is much better and more elaborate. Its fundamental character is pictographic. In objects which serve ceremonial purposes, this character is strictly maintained. Thus we find on buffalo-hides which are records of events, and even on blankets, pictographic representations of battle-scenes, or of other events in the daily life of the Indian. On garments used in ceremonial dances, paintings occur which represent birds, sun and moon, and are similar in character to those described before.

These, however, are not, strictly speaking, decorative designs. In most cases where ornamentation is the prime object, the forms which are utilized are arranged more or less symmetrically; and with the development of symmetry we find that the occurrence of realistic forms disappears. Almost all the decorative work of the Indians of the Plains is made in bead-embroidery, and is