

The cone itself is a very heavy affair, weighing alone some six tons. It is built entirely of five-eighth-inch steel, eight feet in diameter at the base, and consists entirely of warped surfaces, for which formers had to be made; the interior of the blades are of somewhat less than semi-circular section, and they are reinforced on the outside by a quadrant brace plate, also of five-eighth-inch steel, giving the section of the blade an inverted Y form, except that the lines are curved and not straight. The blades are two feet deep at the base, tapering down to almost nothing at the point.—*N. Y. Times.*

NOTES.

PHILADELPHIA is agitating for four-cent milk. According to the health authorities of that city, the law against adulterating this fluid doesn't amount to anything there; so it is quite possible that the agitators may gain their point without serious embarrassment to the milk producers.

A STRANGE phenomenon in the heavens was noticed by many in Lexington, Ga., lately. It was a hazy cloud, and encircling the sun was a complete rainbow, with at least half the hues. Some of the people looked upon it as the sign of some calamity to come, and have not rested easily since.

AN order has been issued at the press censor's department in St. Petersburg that no telegrams can be either received or sent by the papers between six in the evening and eight in the morning. The only reason is that the officials of the bureau object to remain on duty at night time.

A GENIUS has invented a machine which serves a dish of ice-cream upon the dropping of a nickel in the slot. The invention removes the gloom which comes with summer from the soul of the impecunious and engaged young man who has had to buy unlimited cream in the past at monopolistic restaurant prices.

FREE dinners to the Viennese school children have done a vast amount of good to the little ones during the last two winters. The meals have just ceased, but will recommence in November, and the teachers state that both the health and learning powers of the children show marked improvement through the nourishing food.

A CHICAGO boarding house keeper was arrested on complaint of a census taker for refusing to reveal the ages, occupations, pedigrees and private affairs of his boarders. He was discharged, having pleaded ignorance of the points on which he had been questioned by the enumerator. This boarding house keeper is a rara avis. He should be secured as a freak for the World's Fair with the man who never said: "Is this hot enough for you?" The latter, however, has not yet been found.

BRAIN COVERS, OLD AND NEW.

The modern high silk hat, the hat of civilization and ultrarespectability, has from time to time been vigorously assailed and attacked by numerous writers; but, strangely enough, this flimsy cylindrical head piece still survives, and retains its lofty position in public estimation. It has never had a serious rival, and holds its position mainly for two reasons. First, because a more becoming substitute, and one that would harmonize with our present sombre style of dress, remains yet to be introduced; and second, that unless such a substitute was adopted and worn by our acknowledged leaders of fashion, it would never become general or popular.

Harmony plays an important part as regards costume. The three-cornered hat of the early Georgian era would hardly look well with the sober regulation frock-coat of to-day, and a high silk hat would look equally ridiculous crowning a peruke, or with a full-bottomed coat of the last century. The hats of the Stuart period were both picturesque and admirably suited to the style of dress worn in those days of gorgeous attire and personal decoration. Since then, hats, like other things, from a picturesque point of view, have gradually degenerated.

The first tall hats began to be worn in England towards the close of the last century, although the shape is said to have been derived from the high-crowned hat of Queen Elizabeth's time. They were very heavy, and covered with beaver, and were readily superseded by the French silk hat, introduced about fifty years ago, which had the advantage of being lighter while it retained its stiffness. Since then, although they have undergone many varieties of form, the material has not been altered. From time to time the changing hand of fashion has slightly varied its shape, either in moulding the sides or playing fantastic pranks with the brim. We have had the solemn flat-brimmed "stovepipe" of imposing dimensions, and the jaunty bell-topper, with a curly brim, and numerous variations between. Then we have had hats tall and short, bell-shaped and conical, some with perpendicular and others with curved sides, until at last it would appear in the course of time we shall arrive at the earliest style again.

It is said, "A man only becomes a man when he is clothed." If so, his hat goes a long way to make or mar his personal appearance. The most that can be said for the modern hat is that its absolute rigidity carries with it a certain dignity. But fitting hermetically to the head, it bathes the scalp in perspiration, probably causing premature baldness, and, further, it is incapable of proper ventilation. No one will venture to dispute that the primary design and use of a hat should be as a covering to the head, and to protect and shelter that valuable portion of the body from the excess of heat, cold, and exposure. Therefore, it is most essential a hat should

be well and properly ventilated, light, comfortable, and easy to wear, and also manufactured of a material that is adapted to our variable climate. A perfect hat should be neither too tall nor too low. It should bind the head tightly at no portion and be graceful in shape as well as quietly tasteful in color, harmonizing with the hue of the color worn with it. Such a hat is not always procurable ready made even in the largest cities where hat stores abound. It is somewhat remarkable that the modern hat does not fulfil a single one of these necessary qualifications. It has not even the redeeming point of being picturesque, yet it is now worn and found among all the civilized nations of the earth, and is often found crowning the head of a dusky monarch or savage chief as their full-dress costume on state occasions. Certain classes are very conservative in their style of hats, which easily betray their calling, even to the inexperienced eye. The clerical hat with the broad brim, or the soft felt, is unmistakable. The man of sporting proclivities is fond of short crowns and well-curved brims, while the actor not unfrequently affects the soft felt or the "Rembrandt" type, with a brim of large or small proportions. The Sunday chapeau of the coster has a distinct individuality, which would be hard to mistake, and the old-fashioned "bell-topper," covered with beaver, is still dear to the heart of the country farmer. It is easy to distinguish a German or a Frenchman in our streets by his hat, and the Englishman, as a rule, equally betrays his nationality when abroad. Divers and strange are the variety of uses hats are put to at times, from making a collection to the receptacle for a doctor's stethoscope, and for carrying numerous articles.

Whatever may be in the near future we know not, but the perfect hat yet remains to be designed. To become popular and generally worn, it is essential that it should be suitable to our modern mode of attire, and look well. It must afford protection to the head from all excesses of our changeable climate, be light and easy to wear, capable of sufficient ventilation, and composed of a material that will not easily spoil.—*Metropolitan.*

THE French Chamber of Deputies has under consideration a plan of taxation which, if carried out, will bring in a considerable sum of money, and may tend to lessen an objectionable system. It is proposed to prohibit, under penalties, betting for smaller amounts than £5 or \$1; that is, betting on race courses and the like, and to compel all those who engage in this pursuit to pay to the government a tax of 10 per cent. on all bets made, the money thus obtained to be used as a fund, out of which those incapacitated men who can show that they have been small wage earners for a long period of years, say, thirty, forty or fifty, can receive slight pensions. That is, the vices of the community are to be taxed for the purpose of giving aid to a needy and deserving class.