

**LOCAL**

The painters have nearly completed their work at the hospital.

Brewer Hall won in Mr. Bent's marble tournament. This event was a classic in local sport realms.

William Frazier arrived at the school last week from Portland, where he had been working in a shipyard.

Mr. Bent recently received a letter from Reggie Downie. The writer is now with the colors in Germany.

Paul Liphart combined business and pleasure last week in a trip to Portland, where he was the guest of one of his sisters.

The carpenters were busy a part of last week repairing some windows and seats in the senior classroom. All is now "shipshape."

**TREES AND LIGHTNING DAMAGE**

The lightning seems to have its favorite victims among the trees, writes John Burroughs, well-known naturalist, in the Century. I have never known it to strike a beech tree. Hemlocks and pines are its favorites in my woods. In other regions the oak and the ash receive its attention. An oak on my father's farm was struck twice in the course of many years, the last bolt proving fatal.

The hard or sugar maple, is frequently struck, but only in one instance have I known the tree to be injured. In this case a huge tree was simply demolished. Usually the bolt comes down on the outside of the tree, making a mark as if a knife had clipped off the outer surfaces of the bark, revealing the reddish-yellow interior. In several cases have I seen this effect.

But a few summers ago an unusually large and solid sugar maple in my neighbor's woods received a charge that simply reduced it to stove wood. Such a scene of utter destruction I have never before witnessed in the woods. The tree was blown to pieces as if it had been filled with dynamite. Over a radius of 50 or more feet the fragments of the huge trunk lay scattered.

It was as if the bolt, baffled so long by the rough coat of mail of the maple, had at last penetrated it and had taken full satisfaction. The explosive force probably came from the instantaneous vaporization of the sap of the tree by the bolt.

**THE WORLD AT LARGE**

Prince John, youngest son of the king of England, died quietly in his sleep Jan. 18. The prince who was born in 1905 had suffered epileptic fits since his infancy. These of late had become more frequent and severe, finally causing his death.

No Previous year in history had so many events of vital, universal importance crowded into it as 1918 and none has brought before the world so many momentous problems as 1919. If the statesmen and treaty makers are as successful in solving these problems as Gen. Foch, with the armies under his command, was in shaping the crowning event of 1918, the new year will stand out in the pages of history about as prominently as its predecessor.

In a recent report Dr. H. A. Cotton, medical director of the New Jersey state hospital, tells of insanity having been cured by the removal of diseased teeth and infected tonsils and the clearing up of the gastrointestinal tract. The new treatment, the report says, brings about speedy recovery and has been found effective in the treatment of persons who had been insane for nine years. Neglect, bad dental work and promiscuous kissing are named as causes of infected teeth.

The French government announced a short time ago that American soldiers in France would be exempted from customs duties and registry, liquor, wine and luxury taxes. In the case of officers the exemption amounts to about \$48 monthly for a period of four months and in the case of enlisted men to about \$10 monthly for the same period. Each Yank is to be given a book of coupons aggregating the amount of the exemptions due him and these coupons will be accepted by merchants in lieu of taxes.

No more yarn will be issued to war workers for making knitted articles for the Red Cross, according to orders from headquarters to the various Red Cross chapters. Already there is sufficient stock of knitted articles in reserve at Red Cross division and camp warehouses to meet the needs of American soldiers and sailors for some time to come, it is announced. During a period of 17 months more than 10,000,000 knitted sweaters, socks, mufflers, helmets and wristlets were turned out by Red Cross workers for soldiers and sailors.

Judge H. W. Vaughn of the U. S. district court of Hawaii has ruled that Chinese and Japanese aliens serving in the U. S. army are entitled to American citizenship under a recent act of congress and has granted citizenship to Sachi Shimodo, a Japanese enlisted in the army. A naturalization examiner had previously refused his application, declaring that he was acting under instructions from the department of labor at Washington. It is said that 400 other Japanese will seek citizenship under the ruling of Judge Vaughn, despite the fact that the assistant district attorney has undertaken to have Shimodo's citizenship papers canceled.