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Ask your Storekeeper for these preparations. Or write direct to

Children's Column.

MATER'S LETTER BOX.

Mater invites children to send in stories for this column, or correspondence which will be replied to through these columns. All matter to be clearly written in ink, and one one side of the paper only. Name,

age, and address, must be always given, and correspondence directed to "Mater," care of Editor, "The Digger," Box 310, Invercargill.

WHEN CHICKKO STAYED UP LATE.

Chikko was one of a family of ten little black chickens, and he lived with his mother, the big black hen, and all hisbrothers and sisters in a little wooden chicken coop in the big paddeck. They had a nice little wire run leading out of the coop, in which they could play and catch thies all day long, but at six o'clock every evening they were all safely shut up in the coop. After a time they grew so big and strong that the farmer's wife said the wire was no longer big enough for them to play in, and she had some of the long grass cut away just round the coop, and allowed the black hen to take her children out into the paddock. The hen took great care of her little family, and she was very angry if any of the other fowls came near them, and drove them away. She was careful, too, that her children did not stray too far, and said "Cluck, cluck, cluck," which means "Come back at once," as soon as she saw them running too far away from her, and she took them safely back to the coop every night at six o'clock and put them safely under her wings to bed.

Now Chikko did not like going to bed so early.

"Why can't we stay up till the grownup chickens go to bed?" he said.

His mother told him that all chickens, large and small, must go to bed before sun-down, but Chikko was disobedient, and stole away while the others were clucking and flapping their wings, as they settled down on their perches in the big fowl house.

He had gone quite a long way across the paddock when he heard a rustling in the grass. He looked around quickly and saw a pretty little brown creature coming towards him.

He had never seen such a person before. It was much too small for a dog, he knew. It was even smaller than the old tabby stable cat's baby kitten.

"Hello!" he said. "Who are you?" "I am Master Rat," replied the little creature.

"Oh!" replied Chikko, "I don't think I have met you before."

"No," said Master Rat, "you are not

often out so late, are you?" "That is not my fault," said Chikko. "I think myself this is the nicest time of the day."

"It is, most certainly," agreed the little brown creature, and then he seemed to give a spring and a leap towards Chikko. Just as he did so, there was a great scuffle in the grass, the thud of big boots tramping on the ground, and a sharp little squeak from Master Rat. Chikko, who had just time to creep under a dock leaf, saw Vixen, the terrier, shaking the little brown creature in her mouth, and the farmer poking about the grass with his

"Good dog," he said, when he saw Vixen shaking Master Rat, and he patted the terrior and took Master Rat out of her mouth. Chikko knew the poor little creature was dead, for it was quite still and limp, and he was thinking how cruel it was of the farmer to let the dog kill it, when the farmer caught sight of him peeping from under the dock-leaf.

"Why, here's the lost chicken," said, "and if Vixen wasn't just in time to stop that rat killing it."

And he picked Chikko up and gave him to his wife. She carried him back to the coop and said she would have a larger run made, as she could not let them run loose in the paddock if they were to be lost in the long grass where the rats would get them.

"There," clucked the black hen to Chikko, "that is all through your disobedience. Now you will have to stay in a run all day long."

When he told her about the rat, she said she hoped it would be a lesson to him to go to bed at chickens' proper bed time, for chickens always go to bed at sunset, before their enemies the rats come prowling about in search of chickens for their suppers.

During a single journey through the Sahara horses have worn out three sets of shoes, while the camel's feet were not even sore.



The Home.

TO REMOVE VARAISH FROM POLISHED WOOD.

Dissolve 3lbs of caustic soda in half a gallon of water, stir into it 21bs of quicklime, and add enough silicate of soda to form a paste. Apply by means of an old paint brush, and leave on until the varnish softens. It may easily be removed by scrubbing with cold water. 2.-Procure a little black ash from a chemist, and put a piece of about the size of an egg in a quart of boiling water. When dissolved, apply either hot or cold water to the wood. Scrape as much off as possible, then wash with hot water and give a coat of ordinary vinegar.

RHUBARB WINE.

Take the stems of full-grown rhubarb and bruise them in a mortar to a pulp. Put the pulp into a tub, and to every 10lbs weight of the stems, add two gallons of cold spring water. Infuse for four days, frequently stirring. Then press into a pulp, and to every gallon of the liquor add 2lbs of fine sugar, stirring until it is dissolved. Let it stand three or four days till the fermentation stops. Skim it well; put into a cask, but do not stop it, as it will ferment again. When the fermentation ceases add more loaf sugar to sweeten it, and stop it close. In two months it will be fit to bottle, add a little brandy. It improves with age.

TO PREVENT MILDEW N JAM.

1.—The jam must be kept in a place free from damp, and if tissue paper soaked in brown brandy is fitted close over the jam it will prevent mildew. The jam should be then covered well over with the gummed paper sold for this purpose, and which must be slightly wetted all round the edge for adhesion. This paper also obviates the use of string, which sometimes is practically of no avail to keep out the air when tied up in the usual way. 2.-When boiling jam, add a piece of fresh butter about the size of a nutmeg to say 10lbs of Iruit, and cover while

DOMESTIC HINTS.

Meat taints quickly if exposed to moon-

A good waterproofing for boots can be made by melting equal parts of beeswax and mutton suct. Rub this lightly on the soles and edges of the boots.

For creaking shoes put a small quantity of linseed oil on a plate, and stand the sole of the shoe in it for a few hours. The creak will disappear, and the shoe will also last longer on account of this treatment.

To clean a serge skirt, dissolve one pennyworth of ammonia in a pint of water, and carefully sponge the skirt with the mixture. All the spots and rusty appearance will then disappear, Hang the skirt in a warm room, but on no account before a hot fire or in the

A white felt hat may be cleaned thus: Get .some powdered magnesia from the chemist's, make it into a thick paste with cold water. With a paint brush, apply this evenly to the felt, and when dry, brush off with a clean soft clothes

When tan boots are to be turned into black ones, first of all wash them in rather strong soda water (common washing-soda), but do not saturate them with appetising.

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NEVER SAY DIE, BUT ALWAYS TRY

BARLOW'S JUBILEE TEA.

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ADVERTISERS!

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We can tell you of a number who can testify to our claim and we are always ready to discuss advertising with firms who are desirous of reaching the purchasing public.

Remember ONE advertisement in the "Digger" covers the whole field.

We guarantee to have the largest circulation of any weekly, south of Dunedin, and the largest circulation outside of the leading morning and evening papers.

Failure to change your advertisement is failure to get effective service, and no fault of the "Digger."

it. Let them dry, and afterwards black them all over, and, instead of using a brush, employ the cut half of a potato.

Lavender is one of the best washing colours. After that comes pink and blue, When washing the latter add a little vinegar to the last rinsing water. article at all likely to shrink should be carefully pulled into shape before hanging out to dry. It is also an excellent plan to give such things a good shaking.

If bright saucepans or kettles have to be used over a smoky fire, by smearing a little grease over the bright part it will prevent the smoke from blackening it. If washed afterwards in hot water the pan will be as bright as ever. Fresh lard rubbed over new tinware and well heated in the oven before it is used will prevent it ever rusting afterwards.

A few drops of lemon-juice rubbed oriskly on black or brown leather will give it a brilliant polish.

New tins should be set over the fire with boiling water in them for several hours before food is put into them.

Knitters should provide themselves with a tape measure for frequent reference. Rusty black lace, which may have been long in the family, can be revived and made as fresh as new by the steam of

green tea. When baking potatoes, grease them first with a little butter, and when cooked they will be beautifully brown and crisp, with the glazed appearance that makes them so

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