

### Scorched Linoleum

Dear Aunt Daisy,—I have just had a great misfortune, and would be so grateful if you know of any way I can repair the damage.

We have just laid new linoleum in our kitchen, and I accidentally switched on the iron while it was lying on the floor. I had to leave the room for a while; and passing through the kitchen a few minutes later, was startled to smell something burning! Eventually I noticed the iron, and on lifting it, imagine my horror to find the imprint of the face of the iron, in a rich brown shade, on my cream and green linoleum! Unfortunately, it is in a place where I can find no possible excuse for putting a mat; and meanwhile this unsightly mark is in full view of the back door; and, moreover, is a constant reminder of my carelessness. I had been feeling so proud of my little kitchen, which we have just freshly enamelled — it has been done barely a month — but now every time I go into it, I feel like weeping. I have heard you help so many other unfortunates, that I wondered if in all your experiences you had met with a similar case.—“Calamity Kate,” (Auckland).

Poor girl, I can indeed imagine your distress and remorse. It is always easy to be wise after the event, and I'm sure I need not now remind you always to pull out the plug of any electric attachment, whether iron or radiator or what not — it is a much safer way than “switching off,” and one which is always advocated in Fire Brigade Lectures. Switches are sometimes accidentally put on by a cushion being pushed against them, or a chair, or in other most unforeseen and unexpected ways.

However, the damage is now done, and what can we do about it? I feel sure that nothing will take out the scorch mark from the linoleum, although, of course, you could just try making a paste of peroxide and magnesia, and leaving it on for an hour or two; or rubbing with vinegar, or even with a freshly cut onion, which is very good on newly scorched material. But you will probably have to cut out, very neatly, a square patch around the scorch mark, and carefully insert a new piece of linoleum, which must, of course, match exactly. A good idea is to lay the new piece on top, and cut through both layers with a sharp knife — this ensures that they fit perfectly; or cut the patch first, then lay it over the scorch and cut round it. The new piece can be stuck down with a Lino Cement, which can be bought in little tins. Put the cement on the floor, and press the linoleum upon it. You could put some under the edges of the cut-out part, too. If this is carefully matched or measured, the place really will not show at all. I have heard of several people putting in “invisible patches” like this, when a part gets specially worn, such as the place in front of the sink, where one stands to wash-up, or just in the doorways. I hope you will write and tell us how you get on.

## COMFORTS FOR N.Z. MEMBERS OF THE AIR FORCE

### Patterns And Suggestions

“AUNT DAISY” has been authorised by the Chairwoman of the “Air Force Relations” Committee (Mrs. Saunders, wife of Group Captain Saunders) to make an appeal for “comforts” on behalf of the New Zealand members of the Royal Air Force. These men already number several hundreds; and many more, of course, will soon be serving with them.

- (1) *The men on Active Service require scarves and sleeveless pullovers. No socks*

*The colour for these should, if possible, be Air Force Blue.*

- (2) *The men in Hospital require scarves, sleeveless pullovers and socks.*
- (3) *The men who are Prisoners of War require scarves, pullovers, mittens and balaclavas.*

*The garments for the two latter groups need not be Air Force Blue; but greys and blues are suggested as being more suitable than bright colours.*

For Prisoners of War, also, the following comforts are needed: Playing cards, books and foodstuffs. Condensed milk (sweetened); honey toffee; barley sugar, preferably with glucose; chocolate; peanut butter; tomato juice; tomatoes; tinned meats and vegetables—all of which can be obtained in tins, and no one tin should weigh more than sixteen ounces.

The “Fathers and Non-Knitters” should be glad to supply these.

Mrs. Saunders suggests that people form themselves into groups so that packing and postage may be done more economically. It is also hoped that donors will put their names and addresses in the parcels; it will be a glimpse of home for a man to see where, and from whom, his “comforts” have come.

Save your Christmas wrappings this year, and use these for the parcels.

Save also, empty tea tins and cocoa tins, etc.

Use the following approved and easy patterns for knitting the garments:

#### APPROVED KNITTING PATTERNS

*Always knit into the back of the cast-on row to make a firm edge.*

*Always knit the last stitch, whatever the pattern, and slip the first one.*

*Always use pre-shrunk wool. This can be done by soaking in hot water and hanging to drip dry. Tie the skeins in several places first to avoid tangles.*

*Never wind the wool too tightly, it impoverishes the wool.*

*Never knot the wool, splice instead.*

**SLEEVELESS PULLOVER:** 6 ozs. 4-ply, 1 pr. 10, 1 pr. 8 needles; 36in. chest.

*Front:* Cast on 100 sts. on No. 10 needles and rib K2 P2 for 3½in. Change to No. 8 needles and continue in stocking-st. till the work measures 13in. Start the armhole border by knitting 12 sts. at each side in garter stitch for 4 rows. Shape the armhole by casting off 6 sts. at each side. Then, keeping a border of 6 sts. in garter st., decrease 4 times at each side alternate rows. You now have 80 sts. Commence the neck by knitting the 12 centre sts. in garter st. for 4 rows. Divide for neck opening. There is now a border of garter st. on each side and on the neck edge of 6 sts. Shape neck by knitting together the 2 sts. next to the border 12 times every 4th row. You now have 24 sts. Continue till armhole measures 9in. Beginning at armhole edge, shape shoulder by casting off 6 sts. alternate rows 3 times. Continue on the 6 neck border sts. for 2in., cast off. Make the back the same as the front, omitting neck opening. *To make up:* Join shoulder and side seams, join neck border and

attach to the neck edge of the back. *Tension:* 6 stitches to inch to increase size of pullover.

**BALACLAVA:** Any coarse yarn. Two No. 9 needles.

Cast on 99 sts., rib 3 plain, 3 purl for 6 inches. Cast off 12 sts. at each end. With remaining stitches go on knitting in the rib for 4 inches. Cast on 12 sts. at each end and knit in the rib for 5½ inches more. Then knit 2 together in every rib making ribs of 2 plain, 2 purl. You now have 66 stitches. Knit 2 plain, 2 purl for 4 rows, then knit 2 together all along the row, leaving 33 stitches. Now knit 2 together all along, leaving 17 stitches. Cast off. Sew up the edges under the chin and over the forehead. Gather the top quite flat. This cap can be rolled into a round cap.

**MITTENS (Easy to Make):** 2 ozs. 4-ply, 1 pr. 12, 1 pr. 10 needles.

Cast on 60 stitches on No. 12 needles. Work in rib of 2 plain 2 purl for 4 inches. Change to No. 10 needles and knit 6 rows in stocking-st. Commence the thumb: *1st row*, K.25, knit twice into the next stitch, knit to the end of the row. *2nd row* and every alternate row, Purl. *3rd row*, K.25, knit twice into the next stitch, knit 1, knit twice into the next stitch, knit to the end of the row. *5th row*, K.25, knit twice into the next stitch, K.3, knit twice into the next stitch, knit to the end of the row. *7th row*, K.25, knit twice into the next stitch, K.5, knit twice into the next stitch, knit to the end of the row. Continue working, increasing 2 sts. between the increase rows until there are 21 sts. thus: K.25, knit twice into the next stitch, K.21, knit twice into the next

stitch, knit to the end. *Next row*, Purl. This concludes the increasing for the thumb. *Next row*, K.51, turn purl back for 26 sts. Now work backwards and forwards on the 26 sts. Knit tog, the first 2 sts. on each row for 6 rows. Change to No. 12 needles and rib K2 P2 for 3 rows, cast off loosely. That completes thumb. Place the remaining sts. on one needle, join in wool and k. 10 rows in st-st. Then rib K2 P2 for 6 rows. Cast off loosely. Fold the mitten in half and sew neatly, stitch for stitch, do not draw tightly. Sew up the thumb likewise. **SCARF** in Basket Stitch: 9in. wide, 46in. long. 5 ozs. thick knitting wool, 1 pr. No. 5 needles. **TOTEM OR “QUICK KNIT.”**

Cast on 44 stitches, knit 4 rows in plain. Then, keeping a border at each side of 4 sts. in garter stitch, make the pattern by K4 P4 for 4 rows. Complete the basket effect by P4 K4 for 4 rows over K4 P4. Finish off with 4 rows plain knitting.

Forward finished articles to:—

“AIR FORCE RELATIONS” COMMITTEE,

C/o Y.M.C.A.,

WILLIS ST., WELLINGTON

### Cantankerous Barrymore

John Barrymore is playing the fool. Running in Chicago is *My Dear Children*, locally described as a “Ham Show,” in which, last month, Barrymore had played to 150,000 people for a box-office gross of something like £250,000.

It's not the play, it's the player. Every night, report quotes the doorman, Barrymore arrives, “dead or alive,” sometimes ill, sometimes tight, always the troupier. Improvising brilliantly as the correct lines go out of his head, from puzzlement, muzzlement, or deliberate intent, Barrymore holds the crowds so long as he does not play the part straight. He injects remarks with no reference to the play, recognises people in the audience, delivers addresses on loss of memory when he forgets his lines, sometimes acts sitting down because he cannot stand up, and once even demanded a wheelchair when bodily powers failed him at the dressing-room door.

Because her husband spanked her too hard in the play, Elaine Barrie has filed a divorce suit against Barrymore. In October, Barrymore was reported as saying to his lawyers about his fourth wife: “Make any possible settlement, but be sure to get rid of her.”

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