

FROM THE MAILBAG

Waterproofing a Raincoat

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Can you supply me with a method of waterproofing a gabardine raincoat? Thanking you, "Student," Dunedin.

Yes, this is quite a simple job. Dissolve ½lb. of sugar of lead and ½lb. of powdered alum in a bucket of soft water—rain water for preference. Let it stand a few hours, till it is all dissolved, then pour it off into a tub or some big vessel like that. There may be some sediment at the bottom of the bucket, so pour it off carefully. If there is not enough liquid to completely cover the coat, then add more, and stir it—but there is sufficient alum and lead to proof the coat. Then just soak it in the mixture for 24 hours—see that it is completely immersed. At the end of the time, take it out—don't wring it, but hang it out dripping, and leave it till it is dry. It should keep you dry then, on your holiday trips.

Cleaning Felt Hats

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Will you please tell me how to clean a navy felt hat, and a black one. They haven't had much wear, but look dusty—and they were expensive. Many thanks for all your good recipes.

"Rosie," Gisborne.

Well, Rosie, we did publish ways of cleaning felt hats in July; but here it is again. First try brushing with a good strong brush—to get the dustiness out. And if that doesn't do, wring a cloth (or better still, chamois leather) out of very hot water, and just rub lightly over the hat. Don't have it wet, but just a little steamy. Then let them air in the proper shape. And if that is not entirely satisfactory, you could rub them all over carefully, in small circles, with steel wool.

No Antimacassars To-day!

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you tell me how to clean the back of a chesterfield where an oily head has been resting?—Yours truly,

E.V.D., Wellington.

Yes, our grandmothers knew something when they used to make the antimacassars so beautifully, didn't they? First of all, try dabbing at the mark with a little carbon tetra chloride, or eucalyptus. If that does not remove it entirely, then the best thing is to mix up some luke warm soapy water with a few drops of ammonia, and sponge with that. Dab it dry, and then repeat using clear water, to rinse. Again dab it as dry as you can. Generally speaking, warm soapy water like that does not harm upholstery at all. You could even use a little carpet shampoo—and you may even find that the rest needs a little clean-up too!

More Cockroaches

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I hope I am in time with this before the Links use much Paris Green, for as you gave warning, it is POISON. This is a much safer method to use, and it has proved successful for us. The cockroaches were in a linen cupboard and it was very unpleasant to have to go and use anything from it. A friend of ours told us to take all the linen out, put a piece of paper in, then sprinkle some meal—any porridge meal will do—and then on top of the meal sprinkle borax. We have no idea where the pests went to, but can say we have never seen a sign of them from that day to this. I hope this will help someone.

Just Another Link, Hawera.

Many thanks, indeed.

TE MOANA SCHOOL JUBILEE TE MOANA SCHOOL JUBILEE TE MOANA SCHOOL JUBILEE

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE ABOVE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 25, 1947.

Former pupils and teachers, and ex-residents of Te Moana and Four Peaks who have not received an invitation to be present are requested to get in touch with the Secretary of the Jubilee Committee, Te Moana, South Canterbury.



★ *Make it a lovely Christmas.* ★



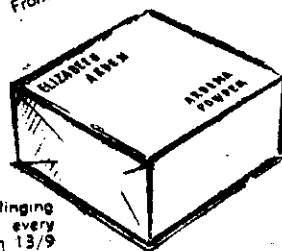
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