

new enamel ones the simplest way to get over that grey look is to buy a pennyworth of mutton fat; then just as the stove is getting warm, rub the black top with the fat and afterwards with a piece of flannelette or similar rag. Rub the top plate and it will give a good black finish which will last all day. Of course this is a daily necessity, but it takes exactly two minutes to make the stove top look just how you want it.

"W.S.D.," Epsom.

Any Suggestions?

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I have been developing X-ray films for some time. My overalls were inevitably soiled with little splashes from the solutions used for that process, but there were no traces left on the garment after washing. Unfortunately I got the idea of sending these coats to a laundry. They returned all freckled in various shades from light yellow to dark brown. I tried hard to improve matters. Neither boiling in a solution of chloride of lime nor using a dye remover was successful.

"For Ever Ambered."

I am afraid you have used up all the bright ideas. I should have recommended boiling in the dye remover, but you have already found that fail. Nevertheless, I think I would give it another trial. What about soaking in javelle water? Or even soaking in the chloride of lime solution? I don't think boiling in the chloride of lime is the right idea—you are supposed to soak the article in the cold solution until it fades, and then wash as usual after first carefully washing out all the lime and rinsing with baking soda in the water. Did you use $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. chloride of lime to 1 gallon of water, left all night to dissolve and then strained carefully through cloth to remove any bits of lime? Then soak the garment, and watch the stains fade away (I hope). And what about the good old remedy, oxalic acid crystals in a cup of hot water—make it quite strong—then lay the stained place on a folded towel, and dab with the solution, repeatedly, till it fades out; then rinse very thoroughly, preferably in running water (under the tap). By the time you have done all this your overalls will probably have disintegrated altogether!!!

Cooking Salsify

Dear Aunt Daisy,

A neighbour has asked me how to cook a present of salsify, which she had never even seen before. So I thought some other young Links in the Daisy Chain might like to know, too. I always boil it first, and, when cool, skin it. This prevents the fingers being stained so badly. Having skinned it, cut it up and add it to a good, fairly thick, white sauce. Then put this in a pie-dish, cover with white breadcrumbs, dab with bits of butter, and bake in a good oven till the crumbs are golden brown. This is delicious. Of course add salt and very little pepper.

"St. Albans."

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Salsify, also called oyster plant, is a root vegetable, something like a parsnip. It can be served plain boiled, with white sauce. Cut it in rings to cook, if you like, or lengthways, or even leave it whole. It has an oyster-ish flavour,

especially if chopped small and cooked in batter, like oyster fritters. For mock oyster patties add chopped cooked salsify to a good white sauce and fill baked pastry-cases with it. Reheat and serve hot.

Kapok Eiderdowns

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I should be most grateful if you could help me with my problem—can kapok-filled eiderdowns be washed? I have two—a single and a double, both covered in a floral satin. Being on children's beds they are very grubby, and badly need cleaning. The kapok has slipped down to the sides from the middle of each end. I would be so pleased if I

can clean them myself; or should they be dry cleaned?

"Mary of Northland."

Feather eiderdowns can be washed quite satisfactorily, dried in a good breeze and beaten well with a light stick to separate the feathers. But I am afraid kapok would be harder to deal with and would get badly matted. I would suggest making fresh covers for the quilts, which can be taken off and washed like pillow-slips. To get the kapok back evenly all over the eiderdowns, unpick some of the stitching and shake and work it back into the middle. Put them out in the sun, too, like pillows—you will find they fluff up beautifully.

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