

might be even better. Get from the chemist "half dilute hydrochloric acid." Dilute hydrochloric acid is a proper standard in the British Pharmacopodia and half dilute is, therefore, half as strong. Moisten small balls of cotton wool with the acid, and rub these on the actual marks with a circular motion. This means that the balls of wool absorb the dye, without spreading it. Repeat with clean balls till it is out. Hydrochloric acid must not be used on any material containing cellulose as it reacts chemically with the cellulose and will damage the fabric. When sponging stains on frocks, etc., it is best to put a sheet or two of new, perfectly clean blotting paper underneath, as this absorbs the stain and the solvent, without spreading. It must be clean and new—no inky bits! Will you let me know how you get on?

Keeping Apples

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I heard you asking about keeping apples. My husband, who once lived where there was quite a large orchard, says to wipe each apple over with olive oil and then spread them out on bare shelves or floor. In this way they will keep for some time. *RITA (Hawera).*

Mere Man's Hint

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I believe "one of the girls" has been having trouble getting her "curly kale" soft? Well, the answer is not a lemon, but just a heaped teaspoon of dripping, and the curly kale will cook nice and soft. Anyone who has not cooked curly kale in the same pot as they cook silverside, or tongue (or anything corned for that matter) has had a terrible up-bringing! *"Mere Man."*

A Mildew Problem

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you please help me. I starched a coloured fancy-worked supper-cloth and damped it down for ironing, and then for a week forgot all about it. On opening it up I discovered it had become mildewed. Do you know any means of removing the mildew without taking the colour from the fancy work?

"State Forest."

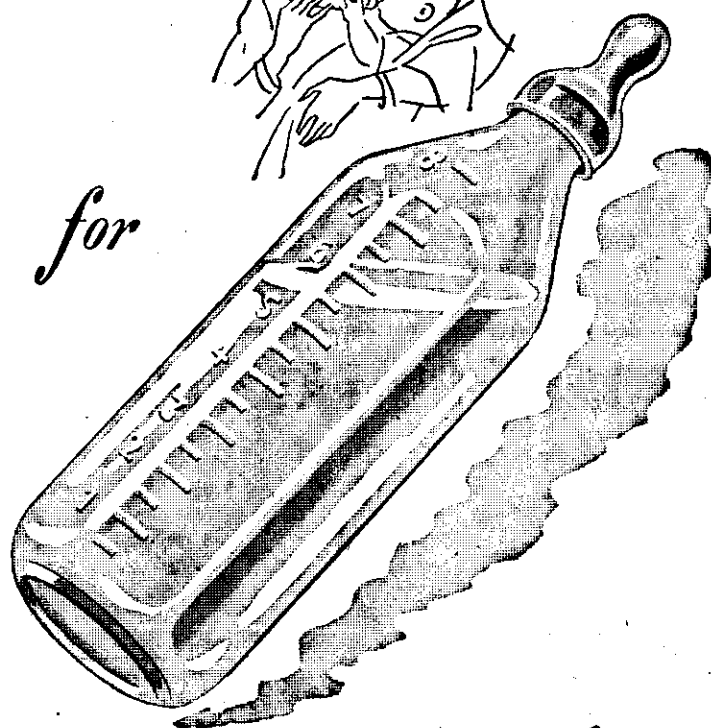
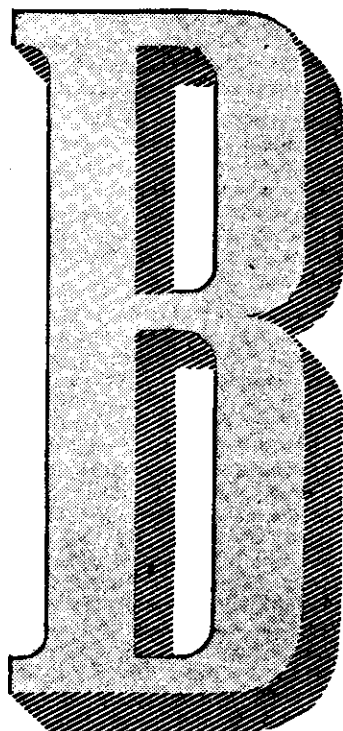
Your best plan is to try the starch-paste method, which is very good and does not harm the colour. Just mix up starch and cold water into a paste—a little soap mixed in is advised by some people—and plaster it thickly all over the mildewed places. If the whole cloth is a mass of mildew, just soak it in the basin of starch paste—work it in with your hands and leave it for 24 hours; be sure that it keeps wet. Then wash out first in clear water and then in suds as usual. If plastered on just in mildewed parts, it is good to lay it on the grass all night, thus keeping it damp.

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