

FROM THE MAILBAG

Blankets, New and Old

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Would you please help me with my blanket problem? My small son had a positive passion for emptying his last little drop of milk on to his blanket, and although I washed them thoroughly (with much rubbing on the milky patches), the dark stains are still there. They were not new blankets, but are still good. Also, would you please give me the correct method of washing my double blankets? They are that lovely fluffy "hospital" type and I do want to keep them nice. "Mrs. W."

I should not have thought that milk would stain wool so badly. Did you soak the stains first in lukewarm water containing a little borax? It is a good plan to soak first, before using soap, which often "sets" a stain. However, I think you might even now remove the marks by mixing equal parts of glycerine and water and a quarter as much of liquid ammonia; put some in a little dish and soak the stained places for an hour or so, and then let it dry in. Next day, wash in a little warm soapy water softened with ammonia, and rinse thoroughly in clean, softened water. Do let me know how this works.

To wash new blankets, fill a washing-tub three-parts full with cold water. In a big bowl, dissolve a half packet of best soap-flakes in about a quart of hot water, adding a teacup of best household ammonia. Whip up into a lather, and empty it into the tub of cold water. This will take off the chill; and, being stirred up well, will make the water soapy enough. Put in not more than two blankets and lift and work them about very thoroughly; then leave them two or three hours to soak. Then press and work them again (no washboard) just as you would any "woolly," and put through wringer into a tub of lukewarm water also softened with half teacup of ammonia. Rinse thoroughly, then wring through again into more clean water. Blankets need two good rinsings. Wring again, and shake well while pegging on the line. Choose a breezy day. When partly dry, turn them up the other way, giving them another shake.

Wine From Jam

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I read in this week's *Listener* someone wanting advice on fermented jam. I make a bottle of wine out of mine. Take a 2lb. jar of any jam, add 1½ pints of water, and let stand for a week. Stir each day. Then strain, fill a bottle and keep full until it has finished working. Cork lightly. I made strawberry jam into wine like this, and in six months it was good, and sparkled like champagne. "North Auckland."

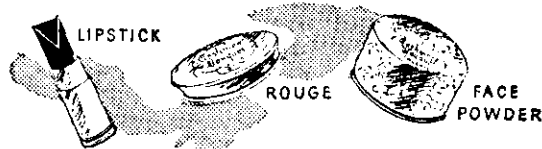
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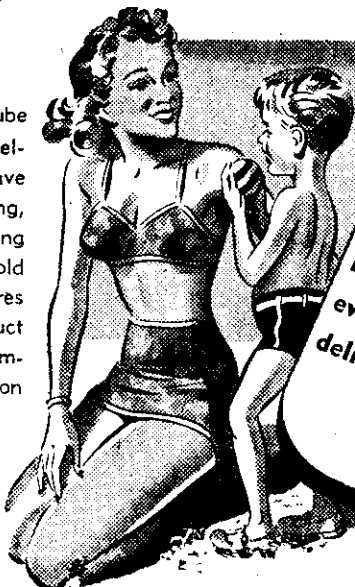
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