FROM THE MAILBAG

It Tasted of Petrol

Dear Aunt Daisy,

You may remember my writing to you of my difficulty with an aluminium preserving pan which had been used for petrol, and had so absorbed the stuff that everything cooked in the pan tasted very strongly of it. Well, I tried all sorts of things, including earth, but at last stumbled by accident upon a remedy. I had bought a pineapple: and having nothing else handy for vegetable scraps, I used the preserving pan, and I put the pan out in the garden. After a day or two, I emptied it out and washed it well, and found that at last the bad taste had entirely gone. The pineapple did the trick. I've even made jam successfully in the "A.S.H." pan since.

A useful hint. I believe boiling rhubarb leaves in a pan also absorbs a bad taste.

Horse-Radish

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Here is a hint to garden-lovers-what to do to keep white butterfly away from cabbages and turnips, of which they are very fond. Just plant horse-radish near these vegetables! It is a useful plant to have, anyway—a little, scraped finely, is good in salads; and it is good also with roast beef, and as a substitute for mustard. I have in my own garden two clumps of horse-radish, now two years old, and so I know the idea is worth trying.

"Gardener," Petone.

Pressing Trousers

Dear Aunt Daisy, In answer to "Housewife of Palmerston North" asking for tips on the above subject, I can recommend the method I have used for years. First turn the trousers inside out, and line the seams to be pressed with ordinary washing soap. See that the soap is soft enough to make a good line (as with a piece of chalk). Now arrange the trousers for pressing; and in doing so, see that the stitched seams overlap each other so that when the trousers are pressed, the pressed seam will come down the centre of the leg. Fold back one leg and press one at a time. Use a damp cloth, well wrung out, and place over the edge to be pressed. Press with fairly hot iron, doing about 18 inches at a time. Then immediately cover with a flat board to retain the steam. Remove the cloth, leaving the board until you press the next section. When finished hang over the drying rack. Now this system is not so complicated as it sounds, and well worth the trouble, as I have found my trousers to keep that knife edge crease for months at a time! I might also add that I fold my trousers flat on the box ottoman at nights and so help to keep the creases in their correct place.

"Mac," Dunedin.

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