#### FROM THE MAILBAG

### A Sponge Hint

Dear Aunt Daisy.

I heard you read a letter from a disappointed sponge maker—the coarse sugar is to blame! The remedy is this. When beating the eggs and sugar, stand the basin in really hot water. This helps to melt the sugar before it gets in the oven and prevents a "sad" sponge.

"Edith," Auckland.

#### **Brass Preserving Pan**

Dear Aunt Daisy.

I have been given a brass preserving pan. It has been used for all sorts of things—even for dyeing curtains. I have thoroughly cleaned it, and wonder whether it is safe to use it now for jammaking.

"Brooklyn."

I asked the Daisy Chain for any experience on this matter. Both copper and brass preserving pans have been out of date for some time now, but were at one time always used, and the replies indicate that both are all right to use for jam when they have been thoroughly cleaned.

#### Stained Frock

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I have somehow or other got stains on a good frock and I can't seem to remove them. I think the stains are mostly liquor stains. Could you also give me a method for dry cleaning my own clothes.

"R.B.W.," Taihape.

I think you would be well advised to send your frocks to a reliable dry-cleaners. They have solvents and methods which are not available to us. and a great deal depends on the type of material. You are apt to "set" the stains if you use all kinds of guesses. Liquor stains are very difficult and often result in spoiling the colour of the material, so that you have a patchy effect. Wine stains sometimes respond to cold water, sometimes to hot water; sometimes they may be removed with chloroform, or ether, or pure alcohol, all of which would have to be obtained from the chemist. I would certainly prefer the professional dry-cleaners. As to dry-cleaning your own clothes for just ordinary grubbiness (not special stains), I would again suggest the drycleaners. We can no longer get the special benzine in which we used to immerse the whole dress, and get it clean. If it is possible to wash the trock, that is easy, and makes it clean and fresh; wash carefully in lukewarm suds, as for woollies. But if you are doubtful, just post the frock to your favourite dry-cleaners. I can tell you of at least two good ones, if you send me a stamped addressed envelope.

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