

and night, to drain away as much water as we could. I then put the mattress out on a section of trellis, which had been laid across some boxes, until it was light enough for us to lift up on to two clothes lines. It took about three weeks to dry out thoroughly in very good drying weather, and it was covered over every evening to keep the dew off. The mattress is now in constant use.

I also did two mattresses which the babies had used for years. I put them on a concrete floor, sprinkled them with disinfectant and soap powder, and then hosed them with a high-pressure hose and scrubbed them with the yard broom—both sides of course, quite saturating the mattresses. I dried them in the same way as the flock one, and they came up sweet and fresh as new. These mattresses were of kapok compressed into layers, and so I should imagine that an ordinary kapok could be washed the same way, but I would recommend beating it quite hard and frequently, during drying, to break up the lumps of kapok.

"Taffy."

Coffee Cream

Dear Aunt Daisy,

In my American refrigerator booklet the recipes recommend the use of coffee cream. What is this, is it procurable in New Zealand and if not is there any substitute?

"D.V.W."

They just mean the rich cream which Americans put into their coffee. Americans have told me that rather than use milk, when rich cream was unobtainable and black coffee not desired, they would use either unsweetened or sweetened condensed milk.

Filling for Water Biscuits

Dear Aunt Daisy,

After a party a lot of wafer biscuits were left over, so I joined them together with a butter icing and shortly afterwards the biscuits had lost their crispness and had gone soft. Can you please tell me what I could do to keep them crisp?

"R.A.R.," Blenheim.

The Daisy Chain has supplied the answer. One says that if you mix your icing with a beaten egg, they stay crisp and lovely. From St. Kilda, Dunedin, comes this reply: Just cream thoroughly ½lb. of vegetable fat, till all the lumps are melted. Grate it first to make it easy to cream. Then beat in ½lb. of icing sugar, adding flavouring to taste."

Wedding Dress

Dear Aunt Daisy,

My wedding dress is of cream satin and lace, and I want to pack it so that it will keep for a number of years.

"Once a Bride."

I think the best thing is to just hang the dress on a padded hanger, and drape a piece of white sheeting or something similar, all round it, so that it will not be soiled by other frocks and coats in the wardrobe brushing against it. Every few months, you should take it out and look at it.

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