

Ham Too Salt

Dear Aunt Daisy,

This tip may be of help to someone. I know how much I myself dislike ham that is too salty. This is delicious. Make a thin batter with 1 egg; ¼ cup milk and a little flour. Dip the slices of ham into this and fry in boiling fat until a nice brown. Serve with fried tomatoes. "Parnell."

Blue Stains on Bath

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Is there any way of removing stains caused by a califont on a bath? These ones are light blue in colour, and have defied normal bath cleaners.

"J.M.," Wanganui.

There is a fairly new English preparation on the market now which is specially designed for cleaning paint and enamel without scrubbing and without causing any damage or wear to paint or varnish. If you send me a stamped and addressed envelope I will give you the name. A Link in the Daisy Chain has recently found it excellent for stains such as you describe. She began by using a thick plaster of soap-powder mixed with strong household ammonia. Leave this plaster on till you need the bath again, and repeat a second time. Some people make the plaster with cream of tartar and peroxide; others use kerosene and soap-powder or whitening. The plaster stays on 12 to 24 hours. Then use this new paint and enamel cleaner, which is just an innocent-looking clear liquid which you mix with water and use on a cloth or rag.

Keeping Hydrangeas

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Whenever I pick hydrangeas and put them in water, they wither within a day. I have tried putting alum in the water, also bruising the stems—with no success. Can you suggest anything?

"Nellie," Christchurch.

Two good Links in our Chain (one from a florist's shop), agree in first scraping the hard woody portion of the cut hydrangea-stem for about 4 to 6 inches from the end. Then, one advocates putting the scraped stem in a container of boiling water for approximately 5 minutes; the other says simply place the flowers straight into cold water and change the water every second day. In both cases, the hydrangeas last a fortnight. A third Link writes that she always dissolves a little alum in very hot water and puts the hydrangeas straight in. "I do this in a bucket, of course, and then transfer to a vase when cold, using the same water," she adds. "Another tip is to cut the ends off the stems while under water. Be sure to add more water to the vase every day as hydrangeas drink a lot. There is no need to change the water."

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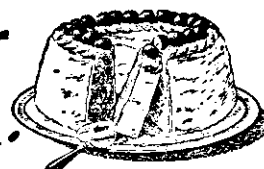
NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, APRIL 14

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