

## Mulled Beer

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you give me a satisfactory recipe for mulled beer? Do you know if any special utensil has to be used for the mulling process?

"S.W.G.," Havelock North.

I don't think you would like mulled beer. It has been described to me as "horrible stuff" by an elderly Englishman who saw it served in country inns in England in his youth. The vessel used was of brightly polished copper, almost funnel-shaped, so that the pointed end could be pushed down into red glowing embers. Good old English ale was heated in this with spices and ginger, to make a hot, warming drink on cold wet nights. It must be remembered that coachmen and carters drove many miles behind horses in those days and were not sheltered as in our modern motor-vehicles. So the men were very cold and would call for hot mulled beer when they reached an inn. Mulled wine is quite nice, and young people of my acquaintance have made it for parties on cold nights. Just heat sherry in an aluminium or enamel saucepan, with spice to taste and thin slices of lemon.

## Indelible Pencil

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Would you please come to my rescue again. Last year you told me how to get cod liver oil and gentian violet stains out of baby's napkins and they are now as white as ever. I didn't bother much about the gentian violet as it came out after a few washes with hot soapy water. My trouble this time is that my daughter has got indelible pencil on the skirt of a fawn velveteen frock. I haven't touched it, as I was afraid of setting the colour. The frock cannot be worn as it is and it is almost new.

"Ailsa," Herne Bay.

Try soaking the stain with hypo. Put clean blotting paper or a folded towel under the stain and dab and mop the stain with cotton-wool soaked in hypo. Don't spread the stain by rubbing, but dab it, so that the colour will go through on to the blotting paper before it has time to spread. Change blotting paper and cotton-wool as they get soiled. About  $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of hypo dissolved in  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of lukewarm water.

## How to Sew Skin

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Recently I heard you talking about needles to sew lambswool or leather for toys, bags, etc. This is useful for all mothers to know, as so often these days one has to act as shoe repairer to children's leather sandals, which have a habit of coming undone down the back seam. Or as like as not the straps want sewing on, and the buckles too, and a few tacks are needed in the sole. I learnt my leather work from occupational therapy in hospital. We were issued with needles called "cutting needles." On leaving hospital I had friends hunting the town for them with no result, until we hit upon the idea of describing one to my doctor. He straight away recognised it as a medical needle, obtainable from chemists. I keep two types and would not be without them for repairing shoes and toys. From the point to about half-way down the needle it is triangular, hence the name "cutting." I have straight and curved ones (half moon). I trust this hint may be of use to many mothers, because a stitch in time saves nine.

"Well Sewn Up," Christchurch.

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