FROM THE MAILBAG

Success With Colours

Dear Aunt Daisy.

I am delighted to say I had complete success with the potato, vinegar and salt method for setting colours in a Fair Isle jersey. I also had fair success in removing the running from another badly marked jersey. Would you mind telling me whether this method will set colours for all time or do I have to repeat the process each time I wash the jersey? "Eastbourne."

I understand that the colours are set permanently—unless the article lasts very long or is washed very often, when it might be as well to do it once more. The method was published in "The Listener" of June 24.

Frying Pan Burns

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I have an aluminium frying pan that is giving me a lot of worry, for everything I cook in it sticks to the bottom, no matter how much fat I use.

"Hoping," Runanga.

The only remedy I can think of is to "temper" it as we do waffle irons, although of course waffle irons are much thicker. Still, you could try. Brush it thoroughly with unsalted, melted fat. such as vegetable shortening or salad oil or olive oil. Do this when the iron is cold. Then heat the iron to baking temperature, and let it cool. When you want to make waffles, heat the iron to baking temperature, pour on the batter, and let it bake. When the first waffle is done, discard it, as it will be very greasy. From then on the waffles will not stick if you use a recipe that contains some shortening. After the irons are seasoned, do not wash them. If waffles burn or if the iron overheats, scour the compartments with a stiff brush and temper again.

More About Beans

Dear Aunt Daisy,

About the woman who is having trouble with her salted beans being too dry; I had the same trouble last year and lost a good many through their going brown. Then I tipped all the beans, salt and all, out into a big vessel and added one handful of white sugar to a big jar of beans. I left them for a day or two, running my hands through them every so often, then packed the jars with beans and poured the brine over. "Elsie of Eltham."

Here is our old recipe. To 2½lb, beans allow 1lb. salt and ½lb. sugar. Cut beans as for table and place in bowl. Mix sugar and salt well, sprinkle over beans, and leave overnight. Next day pack into jars, and cover with brine which formed. Keep in cool place. Do not screw airtight. Wash and cook as usual when using.

For "M.G.S.," of Waeranga, who finds beans preserved this way are hard to cook, a Dunedin Link writes: Wash the beans (do not soak overnight), put into saucepan with cold water, bring to boil, and then pour off. Cover now with warm water, add a dessertspoon of good beef dripping or butter, and a little sugar, and simmer 2 hours in plenty of water with no self.

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