

Gingerbread Sponge

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I have a gingerbread sponge recipe, which, when it comes out right is very nice. Could you tell me if there is anything wrong with the recipe? I find it takes nearly 1 1/4 hours longer to cook if on 300 degrees and if I put the stove to 400 degrees the cake generally is burnt on top, but underneath is delicious. This is the recipe: 1 egg, 1 teacup brown sugar, 1 teacup golden syrup, 1/4 cup sultanas, 4oz. fat, 2 cups flour, 2 flat dessertspoons ground ginger, 1 flat dessertspoon spice, 1 heaped teacup soda. Cream fat and sugar, add egg, then mix soda into milk and add alternately with flour and other ingredients. Add warmed golden syrup last. Bake 1 1/4 hours in lined tin. When cool ice with lemon icing. "Olive," Avondale.

If the cake is really so nice, just allow it to take the extra time, and cook it slowly. The 1 1/4 hours may be a misprint for 2 1/4 hours. It depends, too, on the thickness of the cake. If you bake it in a flat tin it takes a shorter time than if in a smaller and deeper round tin. A cake containing golden syrup must always be cooked in a very moderate oven, as the syrup is liable to burn. You might like to try this one too. It has no eggs. Half cup sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1 level tablespoon ginger, 2 cups flour, 1/2 cup treacle, 1/2 cup milk, 1 teaspoon baking soda. Put all dry ingredients in basin, melt butter and treacle together. Dissolve baking soda in a little hot water. Mix the dry ingredients with the melted butter, treacle and baking soda. Bake approximately 1 1/2 hours. This keeps beautifully moist.

A Hint That Works

Dear Aunt Daisy,

This recipe came from my Grandmother. Her children, mine, and my grandchildren all owe their beautiful hair to its continuous use. During my recent illness I lost almost all my hair and had visions of myself having to wear a wig! Apparently the hair-cells had not died, but I do feel that the oil has helped considerably to give me a favourable head of hair once more: Boil the marrow out of bones, and with it combine in equal quantities, almond oil, white vaseline, olive oil and coconut oil and half the quantity of castor oil. Rub well into scalp the day before washing hair.

"Help One Another," Christchurch.

Non-Slippery Floor

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you suggest something to use on a new linoleum, something non-slippery, which would have a similar effect to a polish, and reduce the amount of scrubbing necessary if nothing is used. It is most important that whatever used is non-slippery.

Incidentally the hint for scorch marks published in *The Listener* has saved a skirt I had thought ruined by a hot iron on a front pleat. "Mary," Levin.

Yes, Mary, I can give you the name of a thick white, non-slippery preparation which will keep your linoleum fresh and polished, and which, being itself liquid, washes off marks while polishing. You can even sprinkle it on the floor and rub it up with a cloth fixed over a mop, if you do not want to go down on your knees. Send me a stamped envelope for the name of the polish.

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 29, 1949

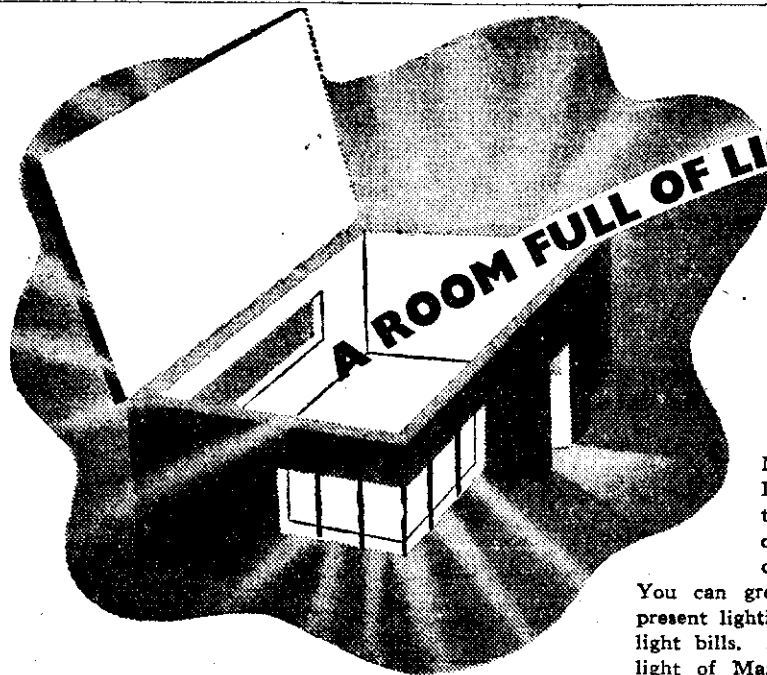
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