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French chalk instead of the lemon juice. A little rub with a cloth dampened with peroxide is also good. Another thing you could try is ordinary metal polish—a piano tuner told one of our "Daisy Chain" that he found that wonderful for the old ivory piano keys. Nowadays they use a "composition," but the old keys are of ivory. Another good way is to put the knife handles in enough milk to cover them and leave them till the milk is sour. The lactic acid in the milk has a whitening effect. Do let me know what success you have; you may need several applications, of course.

Making a Wool Mattress

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I heard you read a request from a lady who wished to make a wool mattress, from some sheep's wool which had been given to her, and wondered how to go about preparing it. Well, I have

Fruit Punch

One cup of strong tea, one cup of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of orange juice, one-third of a cup of lemon juice, 4 cups of ginger ale, and half an orange sliced thin.

Pour the hot tea on the sugar. Add the fruit juices, strain and set aside to cool. Put some ice into a punch bowl, pour the sweetened mixture over it, and add the ginger ale and the sliced orange, just before serving.

had experience in that way, which has exasperated me considerably. My brother is a sheep farmer, and one day he gave me a couple of sacks of wool. Well, I had it cleaned properly by a man who had a scouring plant. It was not successful, really, so I had to set to work and wash it myself. When I had done one sackful I was tired out, and got rid of the other. Finally, I got it dried, after putting it out day after day in the sun. Then I spent nearly every evening except Sunday for about three weeks teasing it out, sometimes being helped by my husband. I bought some good new ticking, and made up a single mattress. It was very nice and about six inches or more thick, and I was very pleased with myself. After being in use for about six months it was, I suppose, less than half its former size, and the wool matted together. It really needed to be taken out (the wool, I mean) and teased out again, but so far I have not had the heart to tackle the job. I would not advise anyone to go to the trouble of making a bed of it. Of course, some other folk may have had better luck, but that definitely is mine.—"Clara" (Wanganui).

Well, that certainly was a very disheartening experience. However, here is a method for preparing the wool, given to me by an old settler, so that if anyone really would like to try her hand at mattress-making she can. Cut up $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of any good household soap, and put it into a quart of water with one heaped tablespoon of borax and about 2 tablespoons of ammonia. Put all into a saucepan and place on the stove, or over very low heat, until the soap is well dissolved, then pour it into syrup tins to set into a jelly. This is excellent for washing

wool. Just dissolve some of it in hot water and then put it into a vessel of cold water and immerse the wool. Work it about well and I think you will find it nice and white after several rinsings. Dry it in the sun and "tease" and pull it well. It should stay soft and fluffy if the mattress is shaken well, and put out in the sun frequently—when there is any sun! If not, in front of a nice fire for about ten minutes. And here is another secret, from "One Who Knows":

Clip the Wool

A Daisy Chain Link writes from Taranaki as follows:

"About twenty years ago I was offered enough wool to make a double mattress if I cared to do the work necessary to make it up—so I thought I would try. First I washed the wool in plenty of hot water, and with home-made soap, then rinsed it in clear cold water, put it all through the wringer, and hung it on the line to dry. Of course, the wool is in hundreds of little pieces, and it takes lots of pegs. It may take the best part of a week to dry. Then it must be thoroughly teased and CLIPPED IN SMALL BITS. I consider my mattress is nearly as good now as when I made it just on twenty years ago, and can assure your inquirer that if she does her wool as I did mine she will have no regrets whatever. Wool clippers (or shears, I think they are called) are far better than scissors for clipping the wool with. Wishing her all the best of luck.—"Auntie Pat."

Cream and Sugar for Ink

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Here is a proved remedy for removing ink stains. Just put a wee drop of creamy milk on the marks then put some

sugar, and rub with the fingers. The sugar will bring out the stains. Repeat until the stain disappears. If it is not convenient to wash the article at once just leave it and wash in the usual way when ready and you will not notice the stain at all.

Provided you do this as soon as the ink mark is noticed it will work, and even if you only just have time to put the sugar and milk on without washing, the stain will not spread. The children's clothes often get spotted at school, and the method works all right even with coloured clothes. I have a maroon table cover marked with ink spots, and I have just persevered with it and have practically removed the stains. You can just see the marks as I have not yet washed the table cloth, for it is new. But when I do wash it I know the stain will disappear.

I have also taken ink stains out of a white curtain that blew into the room when the window was open and pulled over the ink bottle. You can guess what a mess the curtain was in! I just soaked it in sugar and milk, renewing these until the stain was gone, and then washed the curtain in the usual manner.

The ink stains will not come out if they are washed in water first, as the water and soap seem to set them. My daughter had a lovely white tennis dress given to her because it was spoilt with ink stains, and the people had washed the frock beforehand. My daughter has done her best with tomato juice and the stain is now much weaker.—"A Blenheimite."

Well, that really is a new idea—to me, at any rate—and such an easy one to carry out. One hasn't always a tomato at hand, but milk and sugar are nearly always available.

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