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member last year received a Gold Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society for her collection, and she is only a young girl in her 'teens. Now for the method:

1. Cut 2 pieces of strong cardboard about eight inches by fourteen inches.
2. Cut about twelve pieces of thick blotting paper the same size.
3. Make two elastic bands to fit round the card width ways. Put the blotter inside the card.
4. Take this to the bush or wherever you intend to gather the ferns.
5. Put each frond between two pieces of blotter immediately it is cut. Some fine ferns will curl at the ends in a very few minutes if left, and then can never be really straightened again.

When the folder is full (that is, a frond between each sheet of blotter), put on the elastic and leave for some days. You will have to keep peeping, as fleshy ones take longer than dry, hard varieties.

When thoroughly dry, mount in a book with stiff paper (a school drawing book is good) using a good spirit gum. Do two fronds of each sample, so that both sides of the fern can be displayed. This is interesting, especially when the frond bears spores.

I hope I have made this clear enough. —"Grateful Listener" (Aramoho).

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Please excuse hurry, but you understand how busy a Mother is once the children are at school. This is concerning your S.O.S. about ferns. What I do is to spread the fern on brown paper and leave it in a warm, but not hot, oven. The best time is when the fire has been allowed to go out. Leave the oven door open. I also do flowers in this way, such as pansies, violets, etc. The only drawback is that you have to watch closely in case the article gets too brittle. Parsley done this way is handy for the months when it is unobtainable, as it also keeps its full flavour. —"Just Another Mother" (Petone).

Rainbow Windows

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I was wondering if you could give me any help about my windows. I have double windows (not bungalow ones) and the top panes are coloured like the colour of the rainbow after I have washed them. I have tried several different methods when washing, and even

used chamois, but they are still quite coloured. I may state that the windows are plain glass, with the cords and weights. I thought you may be able to tell me what is the cause of the glass going like that, and if there is any remedy. I would be very grateful, as it is most annoying to see colouring on the window. —"M.O.C."

Yes, I know what you mean; I have seen it sometimes, generally in fairly old houses. Are your windows new? If so, you may be able to get the firm which supplied them to put in new glass. I don't think you can do anything to help it; I'm sure it will not come off with washing, unless it happened, by any chance, to be caused by some kind of oil seeping into the glass from some-

LENT PIES

You will need some short pastry, 3 eggs, 1 teacupful of cleaned currants, the same of quartered raisins, and of coarsely chopped apple, 2 tablespoons of soft brown sugar, 1 tablespoon of shredded candied peel, ½ teaspoon of ground ginger, ½ teaspoon of cinnamon, 3 or 4 tablespoons of liquid butter. Boil the eggs for 20 minutes, and when cold cut the whites into dice and crush the yolks. Mix with them the currants, raisins, apple, sugar and peel, and the ginger and cinnamon. Moisten the mixture with liquid butter before spreading on 2 or 3 plates lined with the short pastry. Put on lids of the pastry, notch the edges, moisten the tops with water, and sprinkle well with sugar. Bake in a good oven, and serve either hot or cold.

where, which is not likely. But you do see that "rainbow" effect sometimes on an asphalt roadway after a car has been standing and a little oil leaking out of it. You might just try cleaning with one of the household cleansers which remove grease. But actually I feel sure that nothing can be done about it. It is either old glass, or it has a flaw in the making, or has been under strain, which can cause that colouring. I am afraid you will have to have new glass, unless this may meet the eye of some tradesman who can help us.

A Feather Problem

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you please help me with my feather problem?

I bought some feathers for a bed; washed them, and hung them in bags on the line until they were quite dry. Afterwards, I put them in the ticking, but they still have a very strong smell. I have left the mattress in the sun for several days, but it does not seem to make any difference. Perhaps some of your listeners have had the same trouble, and have overcome the difficulty. —"Listener" (Wellington).

Here, in another letter, is the answer:

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I may be able to help your Daisy Link who is in trouble over the feather bed. A few years ago I purchased feathers, supposedly baked, for the purpose of making a feather mattress for my son's bed. I used a well-soaped linen ticking. It may have been due to the brilliant sun-heat streaming on to my wee boy's bed, but soon something, I know not what, caused a most offensive smell, which worried me terribly. I thought of all "possible" remedies, such as washing or baking the feathers, which ordeal I dreaded, as it means feathers flying everywhere. However, I was fortunate enough to have the use of a vacuum cleaner, which was lent to me; and on the pad inside the cleaner had been sprinkled a strong disinfectant crystal. Then I cut a few stitches of a seam in the mattress, sufficient to allow the nozzle of the cleaner to be inserted; its action had previously been reversed, thereby blowing the disinfectant odour into the mattress. I left it running for about half an hour, to give the feathers a thorough cleansing, and I was never bothered by any offensive smell from the mattress again. I had no cleaner myself at the time, but it proved to me one of the very valuable uses to which one could be put. I am sure any person would help the "link" over the difficulty, providing they had a cleaner and lived handy enough. It certainly presented a clean trouble-free way to overcome what could have been a very difficult, unpleasant purifying process. —"Ruth" (Spreydon).

Many thanks, Ruth. Will the "Listener" who had the trouble write again soon and tell us if her difficulties are now overcome?

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