

The Cracked Pitcher

Dear Aunt Daisy,

With reference to the cracked electric hot water jug, of which you were speaking: I painted mine with ordinary paint over the crack, then put a band of adhesive plaster round the top of the jug. It turned out to be most successful. — "Brown's Bay."

That is a good hint. Somebody else got her broken electric jug rivetted at an umbrella shop and found it worked successfully.

Brands on Flour Bags

Dear Aunt Daisy,

One day last week I heard you discussing methods of removing the names from flour bags and such things. Well, I will guarantee this method to take writing off anything! It also works with removing the writing off honey tins, etc. Just soak the articles in liquid egg-preserved. I usually soak them for 24 to 48 hours (the longer the better); then just take the bags out, wash in the usual way, and boil up well with the family wash. People are getting to the bottom of their tins of preserved eggs by now, so I would advise them to save the liquid for soaking the names off the various articles. I always do this each year, and use the flour bags for all kinds of things — bodices for my girls' pleated skirts, and linings for cushions, and many other things for the home.

The bags come out of the wash without a trace of the markings on. — "T.O.L." (Auckland.)

Very useful indeed, and many thanks for writing to let us know.

From a Bachelor

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I am a bachelor, but I always get a lot of interest out of your page in *The Listener*. I made some apple marmalade by a recipe given by "Wee Wyn" in *The Listener* of April 21. It turned out a great success, and I am very fond of the flavour. Your pages are a great source of interest to me, and I always look forward to scanning them for easy recipes.

Here is a recipe, not original, but copied from an English journal. I make great use of it, as I can put either jam, marmalade, fruit or currants, etc., with the dough, and it is so quick to make and to cook.

Make a scone dough, using 1 cup of flour. Put it into a greased basin and pour over the following sauce: 2 tablespoons of golden syrup, 1 tablespoon of sugar, and 1oz. of butter dissolved in enough hot water to make the whole smooth. Place a lid over the basin and steam for three-quarters of an hour.

Bachelor recipes are always welcome, as so many ordinary ones take too long to cook. — "Putaruru."

Yes, indeed, we do always welcome recipes from men, either married or single. They are always so practical. Moreover, since our chief object is to please our men (we may as well admit this truth!) it is reassuring to be told just the type of thing they really like. Here is a little poem about two bachelors, which was written for me just before I left 12B Auckland. Dear old "Joyful Johnnie," who wrote it, has since died, and I treasure it in memory of that cheerful spirit:

A Bachelor's Tribute

Dear Aunt Daisy, excuse this epistle,

But me and my mate, whose name's Bill,

Live alone in a shack, by the side of a track,

In the bush at the foot of a hill.

Though we takes it in turns at the cooking,

As the swells say, our repertoire's small,

And I reckon Bill's duff, is to say the least, tough,

While he claims that I'm no cook at all.

We have read all the cook'ry books But I'm pleased that our tortured digestion printed,

(They weren't written for blokes such as us!);

With their quarter-ounce weights, and their nicely greased plates,

Spare the crows! Dais, they do make a fuss.

Me and Bill always measure by hand-fuls,

And the butter's put in by the hunk.

You should see Bill's face sour when he reads "Sift the flour,"

Then he heaves down the book and says "Punk."

Has improved since we bought the new "set"

(Quite the best thing Bill did was to spend that few quid

He was hoardin' — and Bill ain't broke yet!)

Bill declares that you give us plain horse sense,

So I write this 'ere note at his wish. You give blokes a fair spin, and you never begin

As them books do, with — "Take a clean dish."

—JOYFUL JOHNNIE.

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