

in casserole with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup buttered bread-crumbs sprinkled over top, brown in the oven. One cup cooked broccoli cut into 2-inch pieces may be used instead of asparagus.

Eggplant

This vegetable with its shiny, polished, purple surface, is very decorative in a shop. I liked it very much in New York, where I was often served with a delicious "plate" consisting of thick slices of eggplant, covered in egg and breadcrumbs and fried in bacon fat, served with slices of cooked ham wrapped round little bundles of cooked asparagus and grilled; candied sweet potatoes and perhaps green peas at the side; and the usual small plate of crisp green salad beside it. Do not pare ahead of time as it will discolour. It may be cut crosswise in thick slices, dipped in seasoned flour or in egg and breadcrumbs and fried in hot bacon fat or salad oil till brown and tender, about 6 to 8 minutes. Or stuff and bake, much like green peppers, by boiling first, unpeeled, till tender, then halve crosswise. Scoop out pulp, leaving a thick shell. Mash the pulp, mix with an equal quantity of breadcrumbs, grated onion to taste, chopped tomato, melted butter or cream, some minced ham or liver or liver sausage, or as desired. Fill the shells, already dusted with salt, cover with a sprinkling of breadcrumbs, dot with butter, and bake till brown and cooked, about 30 minutes, in moderate oven, with enough water to keep from sticking.

Baked Eggplant

Parboil $\frac{1}{2}$ inch slices of eggplant and bake in either of the following ways: (1) Cover slices of eggplant with thick slice of tomato, season and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Lay a strip of bacon on top and bake about 20 minutes in moderate oven. (2) Cover alternate layers of eggplant and breadcrumbs with chopped parsley, fried onion, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, cheese on top, and bake $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in moderate oven.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Bubbly Icing

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I think the listener who had air bubbles in her icing must have put it on the cake as soon as she made it. I have read in an exclusive cake decorating book that air bubbles will form unless the icing is allowed to stand for a little while. "Aussie Listener," Wainui-o-Mata.

Virtue from Necessity

Dear Aunt Daisy,

The other morning I made scones, but being in a hurry, I found I had omitted the butter in the recipe! I was sure I had ruined my batch of scones, but then suddenly had an idea which I thought would be worth a try. So I melted required amount of butter and stirred it well into the dough; and baked the scones in a good hot oven. Do you know, they turned out even better than before; so I do them like that every time now.

"Mother of Four," Cambridge.

I have been told that thinly-sliced cheese stirred in like that makes a specially fine cheese scone!

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N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 22, 1955.



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