FROM THE MAILBAG

The Faded Patch

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you tell me through The Listener if there is anything I could do about my carpet, which has faded very badly in one place; otherwise it is as good as new. It is rust ir colour.

"N.B.N.," Hastings.

You could never get a dye to exactly match the rest of the carpet. People have dyed their carpets at home, on the floor, using a good brand of English dye, boiled according to directions, and then brushed on with a clean brush, to the clean, shampooed carpet. It must need great patience, but has often been successfully done, even using two and three colours, and putting in a border, and so on. A good boiling dye does not fade. But I do not think you could possibly do just a patch, without it being very evident. How about putting a mat or two down, one of them on the faded patch and another somewhere else, so that it does not appear as if one has heen specially put there? Has any other Link any suggestion?

Discoloured Dress

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you tell me how to remove dark marks on a red woollen frock made by a silver metal chain I wear with the frock and the accumulation of two or three years' wear?

"The Schoolhouse."

Marks from metal are very stubborn, and I really do not think you will be able to remove them. Even on one's skin, a silver chain will leave a stain which needs a good rub with soap and water, after first applying face-cream. You could try rubbing in dry magnesia, and folding the frock over, sprinkling more magnesia on each side, then wrapping in a white cloth and leaving for several days. Then brush the powder off with a clean clothes brush. You may perhaps find the marks gone. Or treat them like tarnish, and cover them with a paste made of magnesia and methylated spirits or cream of tartar and water; or methylated spirits and whiting. Roll up and leave for some hours, then brush off, and hang outside till smell of meths goes off. Perhaps some Link in our Chain can help us in this?



ELEGANCE IS A MATTER OF LINE

