FROM THE MAILBAG

Ants Again

Dear Aunt Daisy,

During the four years I was living in Auckland (Devonport), we were worried very much by ants, until I used a special D.D.T. shelf paper. After that I didn't see another ant in either cupboard or safe. I think the cost was half a crown for three large sheets, bought from the chemist. It might seem expensive, but if a piece of greaseproof paper is cut so that about an inch of the D.D.T. paper protrudes beyond the greaseproof, it will be found that the D.D.T. paper lasts for months. All you have to do is add another fresh piece of greaseproof to have clean shelves. There is no smell to contaminate food. and it is really marvellous to rid the kitchen of those pests. "Patricia." kitchen of those pests.

Fusty Bread Bins

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I have often heard you remarking about the difficulty experienced in keeping bread-bins free of that musty fusty smell. I should like to tell you of my cure. Having wiped the bin clean, I put some ordinary flour in the bottom, and covered it with paper. I forgot all about it until I was renewing the paper some weeks later, when I found the flour had caked like starch, and I put in some fresh. The musty smell had gone from the bread-bin and the bread was not tainted. It seems to act the same no matter how fresh the bread is. "I.M.," Grey Lynn.

Cleaning Terazzo

Dear Aunt Daisy,
My husband makes Terazzo sink-tops and he says they should be cleaned with a soft cloth dipped in turpentine. Rub well to remove all surface dust and soap suds, which are very harmful to the bench. Afterwards use beeswax and turpentine, blended to a soft mixture, and rub on as if polishing a floor. Milk, lemon juice, soap and acid substances are all very harmful to Terazzo tops as they eat away the cement if they are continually left on the bench.

"Scotty," Dunedin.

Capers

Dear Aunt Daisy,
Better ask "Gay," Auckland (Listener, January 4), if her French Caper bushes are sprawling like brambles or have straight, tall stems with leaves sticking stiffly out from them and usually making rows running up to the top. If the latter, what she has is Caper Spurge. a Euphorbia, and while some strains seem to be fairly safe and are used as Capers without trouble, others are not. With French Capers you do not pick when ripe, but pick the flower buds before they open—the best quality, called "nonpareil," are particularly small and immature. I may be able later to give source of supply for true French Caper plants—at present in young seedling stage from imported seed-Caprier and Epines. "A.M.I.," Thames.

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