



Help Yourself



Even the youngsters in hospital had a visit from Santa Claus and his Merry band last month.

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This summer you'll have no trouble with recurring fly dirt on your mirrors if you rub them down every few weeks with a cloth dipped lightly in methyated spirits.

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For those whose walls are kalsomined in a light toning, you'll do well to take this hint, particularly if there are children in the house. Paste a disc of plastic in a matching shade round each light switch and door knob—this can be kept clean with a wet soapy cloth and there won't be any grubby fingermarks to spoil the appearance of the walls.

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With the rising cost and scarcity of sheets, it's a good idea to buy the cheaper unbleached variety. These can be whitened and every trace of dressing removed simply by adding two tablespoons of turpentine to the first washing water. Boil them and rinse well. You'll marvel at the difference and it's so economical.

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Here's a hint for that old, faded umbrella. Sponge it well with a strong solution of sweetened tea. This treatment will revive the colour and stiffen the fabric.

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We all know what a misery tight shoes can be to the wearer. If you have such a pair, peel two raw potatoes and leave them in the toes of the shoes overnight. When morning comes the leather will have expanded sufficiently for comfortable wearing.

To give trousers knife-like creases and that professionally ironed look, use one very wet and one dry cloth when ironing. Place the former on the trousers with the dry one over it. Then, give a final pressing with the drier cloth only. Result, a truly workmanlike finish.

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There is a way of mending broken china so that it can never be broken again in the same place. Into a very thick solution of gum arabic in water stir some plaster of Paris. Apply with a brush to the fractured edges of the china and stick them together. Leave it for three days and it will be as strong and durable as it was before the break.

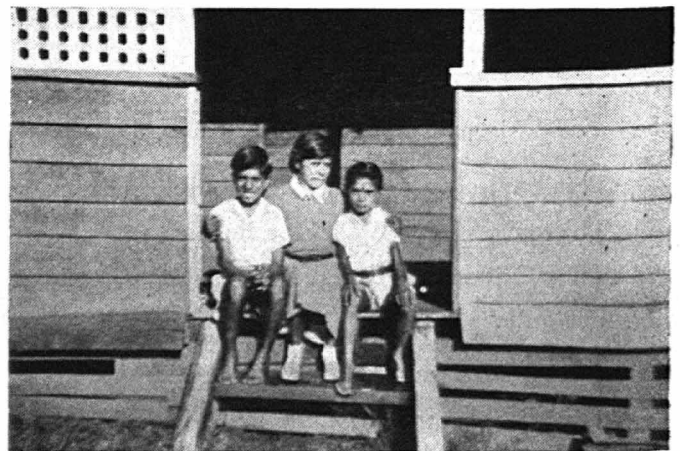
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To remove the stains from clothing saturate the spot several times with a mixture of ammonia and turpentine and then wash out in soap-suds. This is a sure little trick that never fails.

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The problem of drying glassware without those pieces of fluff from the tea towel adhering to the glass will be solved if dried with a towel which has been dipped in a weak solution of starch.

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The Heron youngsters from Nanaglen Rail. They are Ron, Brenda and Charlie.