

HELP YOURSELF

When washing up good china and glassware, it's a good idea to use separate washing-up dish and towels for them. Otherwise, if aluminium has been washed in the same dish, black marks may appear on the china, meaning extra work to remove them.

And on the subject of washing up, do you always rinse in cold water, plates and dishes that have held starchy foods, milk, fish and eggs? It makes them easier to wash in hot water, and removes any strong food odour that may cling to the plates.

Now here is an easy recipe for carpet soap! Use one ounce of shredded soap to a pint of boiling water. When dissolved add two tablespoonfuls of ammonia.

And soiled coat collars can be cleaned by rubbing with a paste made of salt and household ammonia.

And while refurbishing up your husband's suit, a magic for shine is to put several folds of newspaper—one of them slightly damp—over it and iron well! He'll be pleased with the result.

Fruit picked for jam making after much rain will soon turn the jam mouldy! Use extra sugar, it may help to prevent this, but watch your preserve shelves carefully! At first sign, skim and reboil.

Smear a little vaseline inside all metal lids to prevent rust when bottling fruit or jams.

Children, particularly of the school-age group, are "terrors" for spilling ink on mother's good curtains or carpet. Next time such a family crisis occurs, cut up a tomato finely and rub into the freshly spilt ink. You'll find it will work wonders and won't damage coloured articles either.

How often have you thrown away jam which has become candied? Here is a simple way of making it as fresh and as perfect as when you first bought it. Just boil it, then the sugar will melt and the jam will soften.

Velvet is high fashion again, particularly as a trimming on coats and suits, but it is so difficult to keep free from spots and dust. It's a good idea if, after a few wears, your velvet is growing shabby, to brush it up with a eucalyptus extract. See how fresh and new it looks.

A good way to save left-over jelly is to mix it well with two stiffly-beaten egg whites. The result—a very tasty and attractive flummery.

If you have been unsuccessful in so far catching those mice that periodically make pests of themselves even in the most well organised, spotless homes, try soaking small pieces of cotton wool in turpentine and placing them near the holes and dark corners which they are most likely to inhabit. You'll find the mice will quickly depart.

When spring cleaning day comes round again, don't despair of your net and marquisette curtains shrinking in the wash. Instead, try running a brass curtain rod through the lower hem while they are hanging on the line, and then when dry, press them quickly with a hot iron.



A special prize to Ray Nolan, of Dubbo, for this fine sketch