

ACROSS

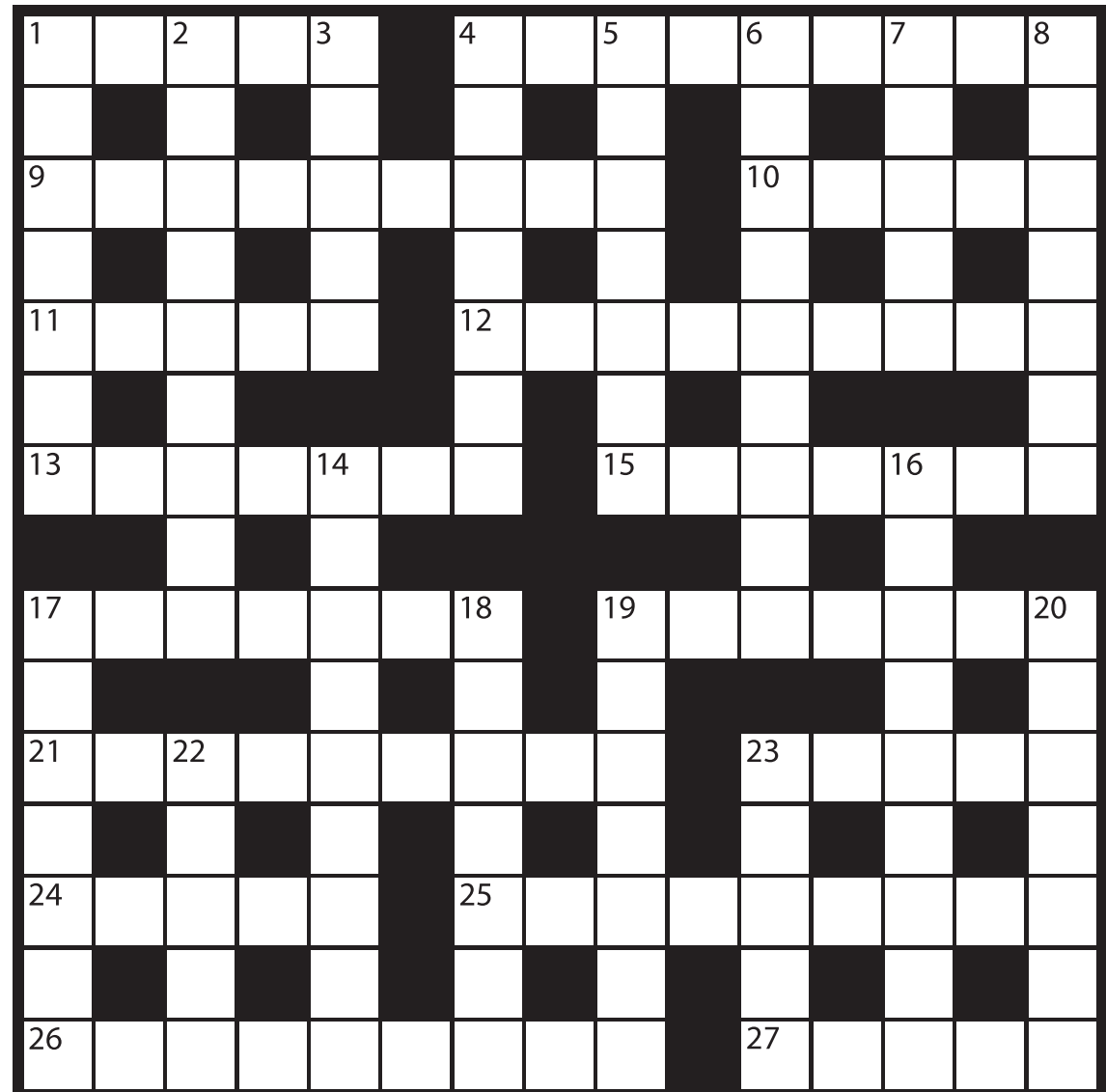
- 1 Sample initially put into sterile bag (5)
- 4 Question a scheme in case of avoidable skid in rain (9)
- 9 Retaliatory actions upsetting liar press (9)
- 10 Flower mostly at the rear (5)
- 11 Admission from guard losing head (5)
- 12 Sadness and courage confronting a revolutionary (9)
- 13 Leading British attack gets rebuke (7)
- 15 Listens if wager is lost (7)
- 17 Worried, being liberated to cover races (7)
- 19 Claimed free treatment as a result of this (7)
- 21 Shame of international wrapped in shroud on moving (9)
- 23 Fear study on origin of disease (5)
- 24 Bug contained by regular vaccination (5)
- 25 Financial review of crooked statesmen (5,4)
- 26 Tradesmen worked and tidied (9)
- 27 Eccentric without reason, to some extent (5)

DOWN

- 1 Standard meeting-place shortly for a nouveau riche (7)
- 2 Honourable theatre board welcoming unionist (9)
- 3 Editor provided pay at last to boost morale (5)
- 4 Embarrassed amateur struck (7)
- 5 Raise leg and steal show (7)
- 6 Drunk put a coat on (9)
- 7 Room for one not drinking in charge (5)
- 8 Cash jobs for apprentices starting late? (7)
- 14 Former occupation of trained NASA tutor? (9)
- 16 Popular ingredient of concrete covering top of road (9)
- 17 Dossiers containing theologians's swindles (7)

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- 18 Bouncer's party piece, swallowing gold (7)
- 19 Fabled swimmer millions admire, possibly (7)
- 20 Party girl let date off (7)
- 22 Fairy story about revolutionary country (5)
- 23 Music venue in England is condemned (5)