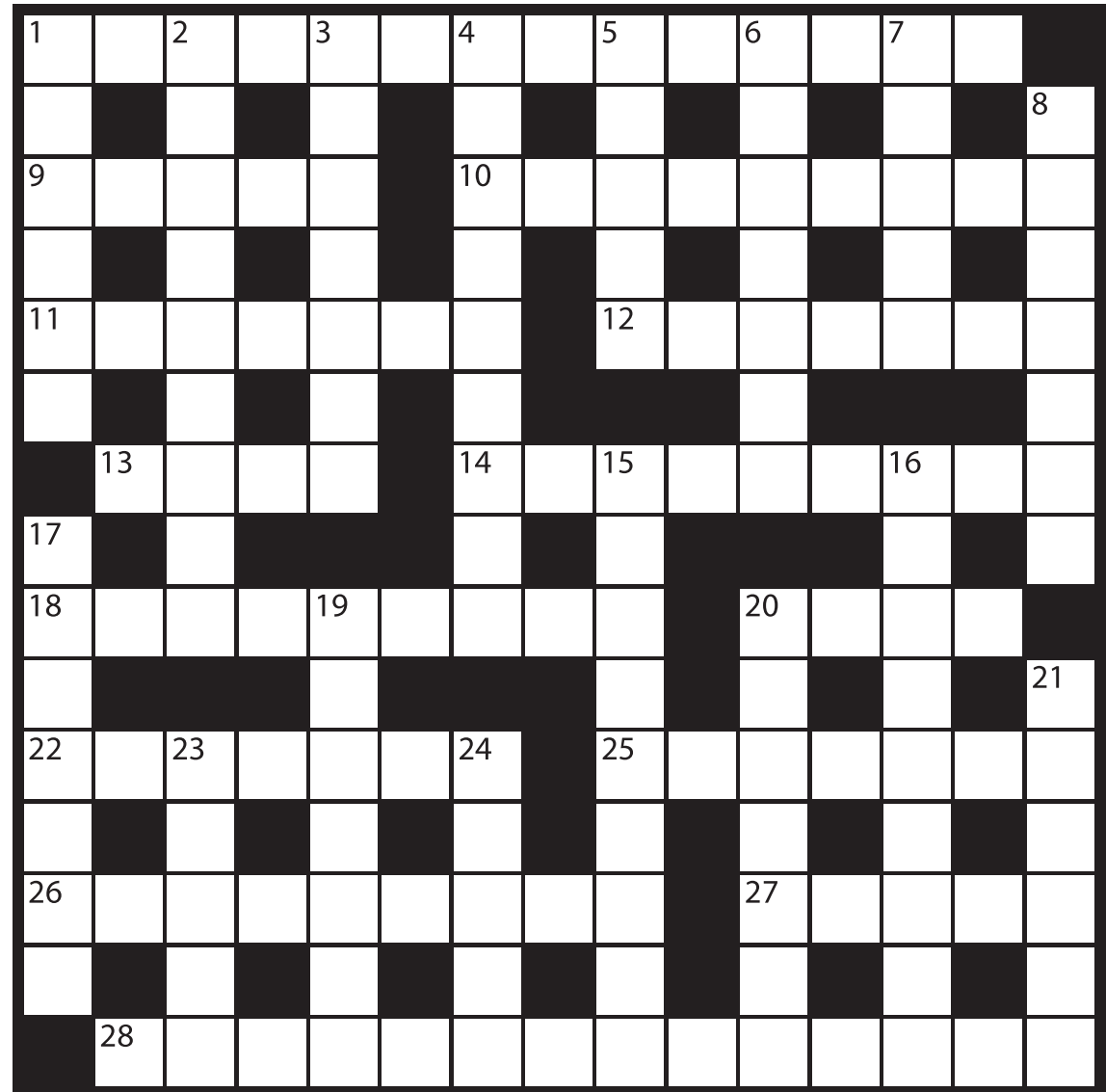


ACROSS

- 1 Acute craving I'm suffering to sail round the world (14)
- 9 Answer salesman before second half of July (5)
- 10 A French gifted person, that's not normal! (9)
- 11 If such a mistake, it's a bloomer! (7)
- 12 Artillerymen with small papers distributed (7)
- 13 Playthings centre lacking two, yes (4)
- 14 Pass through intermediary (2-7)
- 18 Pig-headed botanist takes last of rose (9)
- 20 Smart little bird without a tail (4)
- 22 Stopped talking, it had evaporated completely (5,2)
- 25 King and a politician in the style of African capital (7)
- 26 Band's existing position (6,3)
- 27 Kipling's lone wolf under a stormy lake (5)
- 28 Natural phenomenon such as the Black-pool Illuminations! (8,6)

DOWN

- 1 Broadcast farce about a wine bottle (6)
- 2 Blame attached to bill, debts to follow, being greedy (9)
- 3 President Grant seen during July's session (7)
- 4 Finding uranium in Algerian location is a pain (9)
- 5 Roman goddess in heaven usually (5)
- 6 Decline and leave best books (2,2,3)
- 7 Concerning the outside figure (5)
- 8 Stick, very big inside, for winding up (7)
- 15 Car failure causes emotional collapse (9)
- 16 I bet Hazel upset another woman (9)



- 17 Head boy, eldest and most self-assured (7)
- 19 Repositioning it bound to be questionable (2,5)
- 20 In car I laid map out and had a drink (7)
- 21 Misuse of a rash scheme originally to intimidate (6)
- 23 US state afraid a hostage is inside (5)
- 24 Noisy height of resentment (5)