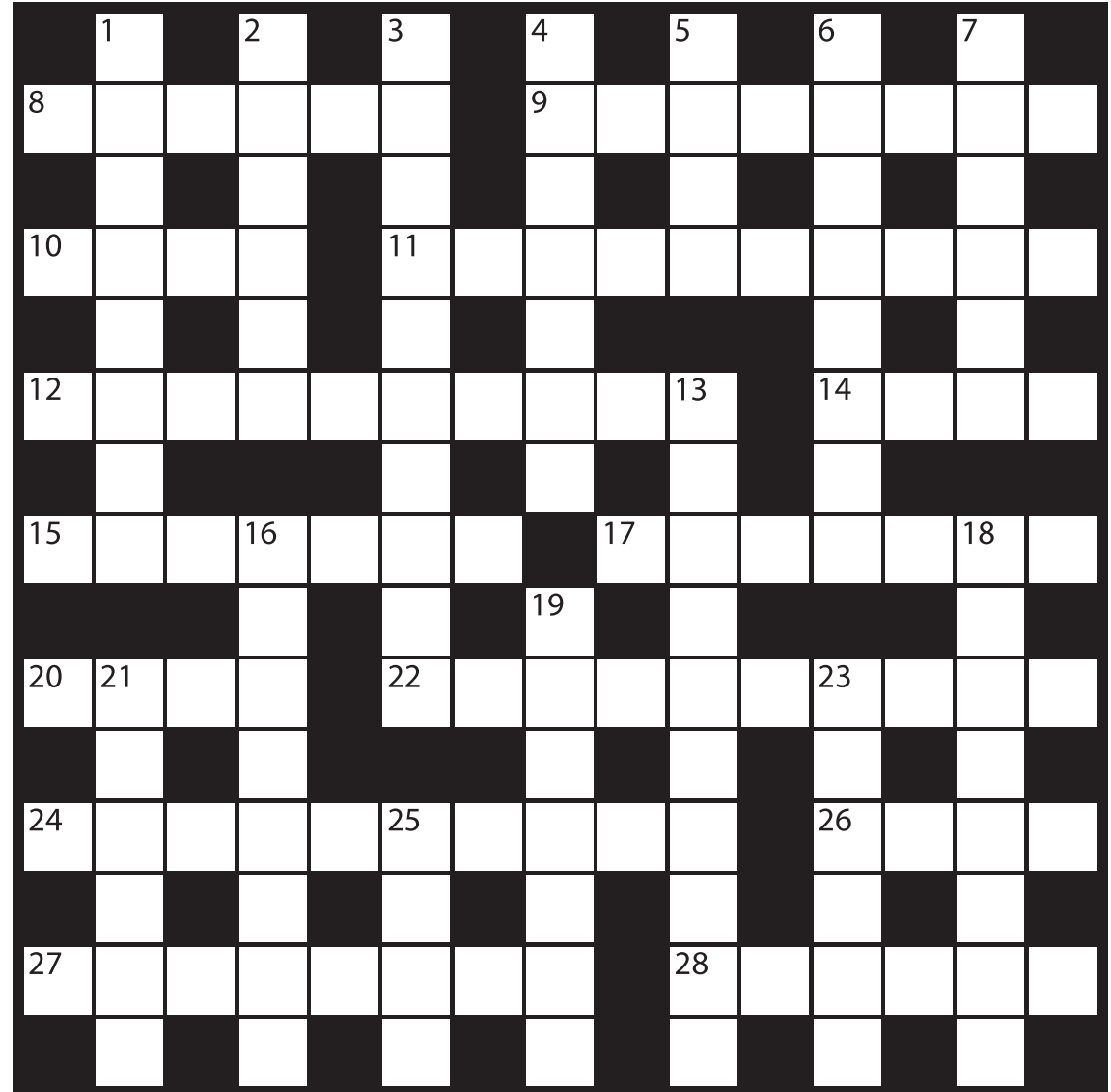


ACROSS

- 8 Pass when asleep, wriggling (6)
- 9 Journalists round top of road go backwards, and go forwards (8)
- 10 Bit of a cyst? Yes! (4)
- 11 Experienced person, history teacher? (4,6)
- 12 Fine cookery where corn double cooked (6,4)
- 14 Nocturnal animals attack going backwards (4)
- 15 Warbled air the wrong way, given Spanish drink (7)
- 17 Talk to Bill with women's clothing (7)
- 20 Shortly consider becoming slender (4)
- 22 Initiative needed to go in with lever (10)
- 24 Opera director should get praise, or I'm off! (10)
- 26 Stop to see flower stalk (4)
- 27 Balance a leg, true? False! (8)
- 28 First-born steed struggling to catch lucky leader (6)

DOWN

- 1 God enters request a lot (8)
- 2 Extend large meal (6)
- 3 Nine pester badly in London lake (10)
- 4 Disciple with beer, takes in mail (7)
- 5 Explosive sound in time of prosperity (4)
- 6 Sporting Post angry at drinks counter (8)
- 7 Agreement as delivered (6)
- 13 Stupid Rover, dunce, in disguise (10)
- 16 Urges one, strangely, to be open-handed (8)
- 18 American writers in south-east finding Hitchcock's genre (8)



- 19 Second number of politicians producing lies (7)
- 21 Impede feature of picnic (6)
- 23 Live with chair, but no roof (6)
- 25 Aquatic mammal is close up (4)