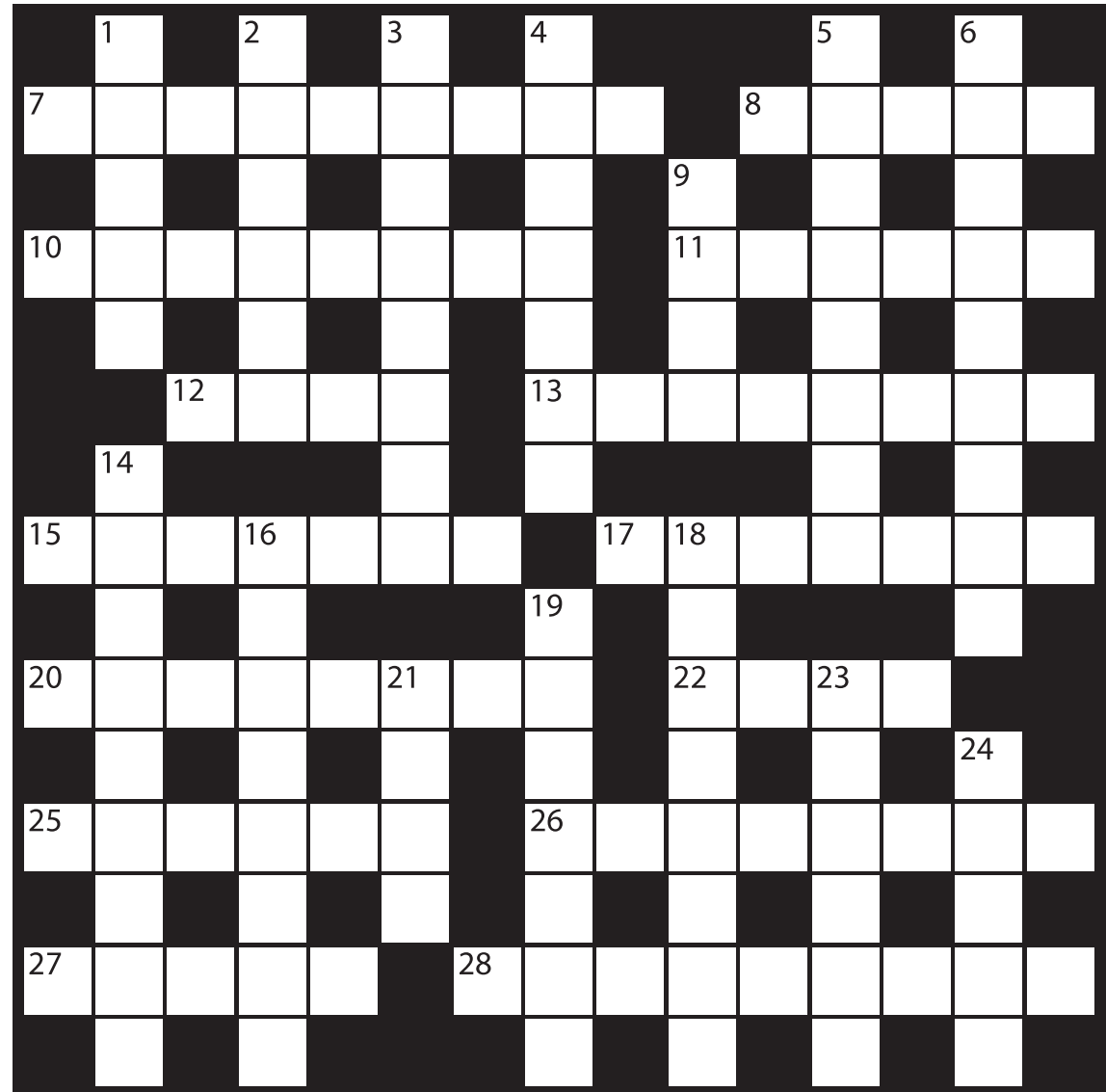


ACROSS

- 7 Average lot, but most important (9)
- 8 Book five during Christmas season (5)
- 10 Small shoe, one's full of holes (8)
- 11 The Spanish, still in the team (6)
- 12 Great singer eager to make a comeback (4)
- 13 Useful headwear, we hear, – a golfer is given it (8)
- 15 Vagrant the French had to tread over (7)
- 17 Soft soap, and what you put it on with? (7)
- 20 Cannot keep holy man inside – it's not safe (8)
- 22 The deity encompassed nothing but virtue (4)
- 25 Thinly scattered boxes by the point (6)
- 26 Completely dismissed? Yes! (8)
- 27 Hoarse sound coming from a rock, strangely (5)
- 28 Top up helpers in disarray (9)

DOWN

- 1 Rubbish – used to be half-rate (5)
- 2 Expedition in lands afar, intoxicating (6)
- 3 Loss of position when depressed before autumn (8)
- 4 Knowing to appear in any lawless state (7)
- 5 Funny bloke involving newspapers in trick (8)
- 6 Envoy in red assigned to lesser work (9)
- 9 The pipeline only contains gas (4)
- 14 Send abroad coach missing one game (9)
- 16 Let Maria change the cloth (8)
- 18 Soldier sent back into lethal riot with drink (5,3)



- 19 Meant not to be in the act (7)
- 21 Complaint about the meat (4)
- 23 Tenor travelled round one part of the world (6)
- 24 Model tights – but not these! (5)