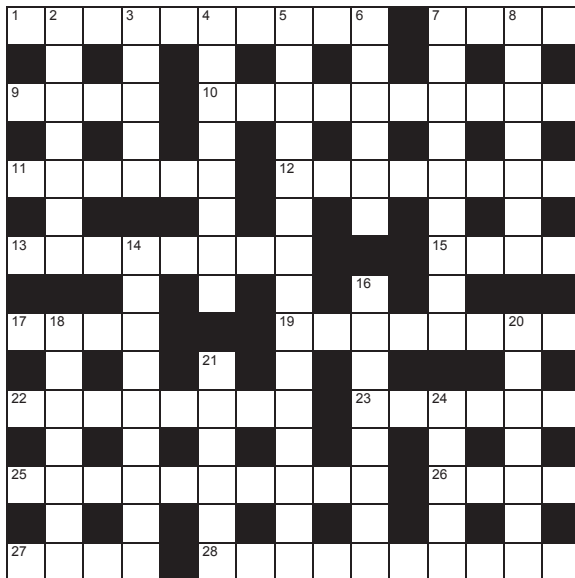


CROSSWORD

No. 16,384 Set by ARMONIE



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Creepy-crawlies need septic treatment (10)
- 7 Pundit initially put down performance (4)
- 9 Instruct archer (4)
- 10 He attracts constituents but only with difficulty (2,1,7)
- 11 Propose to much-liked nurse (6)
- 12 Obligated to pull back when about to consider force (8)
- 13 Jack receives tirade that's brazen (8)
- 15 Respect customs (4)
- 17 Tumbled down hill (4)
- 19 Let Maria make up stuff (8)
- 22 Drug that can be helpful in conflict that's goin' on (8)
- 23 Make beloved's aim, to get attention (6)
- 25 Ron Butcher prepared pigment (5,5)
- 26 Backing for some Macedonians is swelling (4)
- 27 Arranged hotel for Adamson? (4)
- 28 Agile people initially take additive (10)

DOWN

- 2 A bird in each hand is never-ending (7)
- 3 Mark's daughter wearing a hat (5)
- 4 President managed control of dinner (8)
- 5 Checker on board liner shows drawing ability (15)
- 6 Belt worn by a Persian governor (6)
- 7 One has aspirations before the bid (9)
- 8 A Tory peer is to give an explanation (7)
- 14 Winger died in game on island (9)
- 16 Key article's heartfelt? That's immaterial! (8)
- 18 Removal time guaranteed (7)
- 20 A group on leave (7)
- 21 Rustlers shepherds lay hold of (6)
- 24 Material dug up is put back (5)