

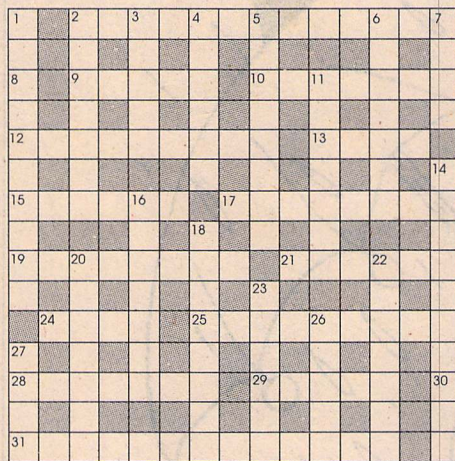
# Clues and cues

**S**OLVING crossword puzzles is not easy. But it is not difficult either, once you know how. Here are some guidelines if, without cross words you wish to cross swords with the crossword compiler.

The compiler being clever always tries to trip you and use different kinds of clues. There are of course simple clues which are but dictionary meanings or synonyms. For instance, the clue "Does she keep silent?". The answer obviously is Mum. Or the clue says: "Let in to confess" for which the answer is Admit. These are not challenges, though they do help improve one's vocabulary.

The usual and often intriguing clue is the anagram. Here letters of a word are or a group of words is transposed to form a new word. Some are simple: In "Each a dreadful pain" the word each is re-formed to ACHE. That's an easy one.

Here try this: Meryl and Lil take Latin to get sick to death of it (11,3). There are three words in the clue which, when re-arranged form "terminally ill." You can get nowhere but for a cue in the clue which is the figures in parenthesis. One



has to carefully see which word or group of words add up to form the number of letters in parenthesis. For example: "A proposition to be proved is the more unusual (7) Two of the words can be re-arranged to form, "theorem."

Here is a comparatively tough one: "When I did cruel things I was mocked (9). The words "I did cruel" provide the answer which is "ridiculed."

Yet another ploy of the compiler is to use telescoping words which you can discern only if you are alert. A gymnast in a gymnasium is hard and mean (6) Hidden inside three words is stingy. Similarly "It's part of many London girls' get up" (5) hides the word "Nylon."

The compiler sometimes introduces certain abbreviations like AB or TAR for sailor, CON for study, ER for hesitation and AC for bill. He sometimes uses puns HARE for HAIR and LAWS for LOSS.

A beginner would do well to study the clues and match them with the solution. By closely following the results for a few days the beginner would get an idea of how to get the answers. Even the most experienced solver knows that the compiler can always outsmart him. Unless one is familiar with musical or botanical terms one can get stymied by such clues as: Pause in the music after mother goes in" FERMATA or "It was to do with plants" for WOADS. There are many who get fun out of scoring an all-correct. They are the ones who look in the crossword page first and then the front page news.

Here's wishing you LOGO DUCK!

**VENGRAI PARTHASARATHY**