

# A CLUELESS CROSSWORD

DARRYL FRANCIS

Hounslow, Middlesex, England

The average crossword puzzle supplies the potential solver with a number of things:

- i) a diagram made up of black and white squares, the white squares to be filled with the letters of the answer words
- ii) clues indicating in turn each of the words referred to above.

Some more daring crossword composers have supplied their solvers with variations of the above. For example, one large Sunday newspaper in Britain supplies a crossword puzzle with clues and a diagram of white squares only. The black squares have to be filled in as the solver solves the puzzle. The February 1970 Word Ways presented an example of a reconstructable crossword where a filled-in crossword diagram was given. This diagram then had to be manipulated so as to give a second valid completed diagram. The reader who is interested in a wide variety of unusual crossword puzzles is referred to Dmitri Borgmann's Curious Crosswords (Scribner's, 1970).

Just to show that we haven't been left behind by this multiplicity of novel crosswords, we have composed one especially for Word Ways readers. The crossword has no clues -- a refreshing break from convention. Instead of giving orthodox clues, we have filled in parts of the diagram with some of the letters of the answer words. All the reader has to do is fill in the remaining spaces with words from the main bodies of the Second and Third Editions of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. What could be simpler? By the way, we should mention that we have not hesitated to use proper names in addition to many totally obscure words. The reader's completely filled-in diagram should tally exactly with ours, which appears in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. By using the word 'exactly' we are implying that our solution is unique.

Good luck!

