The name AZURIEL conceals a syndicate of puzzlers who operate from Holland Park, London. AZURIEL himself—or themselves—will be contributing periodically to WORDWAYS. Those who have followed the historical development of the crossword will not need reminding that, though this classic teaser was invented on our side of the Atlantic, those who share our language have put a lot of English on it since. The average British-style crossword, in fact, relies more on wit and deduction, and less on general knowledge and trial-and-error, than does its American prototype.

Even the crosswords which appear in popular British dailies rely almost entirely on "cryptic" cluing, which is carried a stage further in sophistication by the transatlantic “quality” Sundays such as the Observer. The final step is typified by the Listener review, in which there appears every week a crossword with some unknown factor in the diagram or clues.

AZURIEL specializes in this type of puzzle. In his present first offering to us he gimmick is that the clues (which are themselves simple synonyms consisting of a word or phrase) are contained in the following imaginary correspondence, and in the usual order, with the “Acrosses” preceding the “Downs” which themselves commence at the word DOWN. Should solvers be orriee! at the lack of numbered initial references, AZURIEL assures us that the “lights” or solution words are themselves to be found in the same passage. Some form parts of words, but most will be discovered hidden or buried in a form running across other words, sentences, or even paragraphs.

A recommended method of breaking into the puzzle is to look for phrases from which such hidden words can be extracted, locate the synonyms of these, and then find the area of the diagram where they belong. Thus, the first line suggests that SINTER is a possible solution word. Shortly after the DOWN break the synonym FUSE will be found, which suggests that SINTER should be entered in a suitable space early in the “Downs.”

This has been given only as an example: SINTER does not appear in the correct solution. However, there are no other deliberate misleaders. Furthermore, as an example of the British habit of playing fair, no indications of either the synonym or buried type ever overlap one another.

All words and definitions are based on Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, 1963 and subsequent editions.
Dear Miss Lonelyhearts:

My husband's interest in a chemical compound has crushed my love, for his researches in our garden shed are not worth a dirty old coin, a bone you would give to a dog or even (and this is my sacred statement) a rusty nail driven in crooked. He used to call me his Greek goddess and wild oat: however, I cannot respect him now, not in any way, though he was once my idol-man and I was as happy as a lark. Can a star, can a star, can a star sink so low?

OLIVE LYDIA MYLES

WORD WAYS
No. However you think you feel, your love is not a goner, Olive. What is only a perfumed essence to you may do unqualified good. If your man is a dark horse of science, nothing would be corrupter than to oppose his efforts to uncover and reproduce nature’s secrets. Life has much to give us, Olive, and it is better to spend one’s time in a frozen laboratory (and the shed is, per se and qua shed, unimportant) than playing some card game. What might help is the advice of a priest. Do not be such a pathetic loser and believe the life you once led over: instead keep a sense of proportion, the sense which can be so important.

Dear Miss:
My birthday falls on Feb. 29th. So does that of my twin brother in the south. What are our prospects for 1969?

With Gemini in the solar plexus, average astrologers wearing that long gown known as the Mahdi’s robe would make fewer predictions than usual. But be a hard worker, keep your gun safely in its case, and avoid fleshy temptations.

Dear Madam:
We never say “vacations,” but “hols.” Terribly British, ain’t we?

Od’s bodikins, yes.

Abominable Woman:
Down with zippy knickers! Scatter the cursed who tempt with secret things those in their early years! Sex is treason and the choir of heaven shall sing against it, as even in choral harmony.

I have had to edit your comments. To stick to such a fad here might blow the editorial fuse. Nowadays nobody goes into a panic or dials the police department hourly over such matters.

Dear Miss L.:
I still feel my boyfriend is a little pigeon, but our love is becoming an empty husk because of my tempers. This plural personality leads to my throwing a large pitcher at him—and it’s made of iron, you know—with frantic, hurling gestures, hardly one of those things which warm the heart, especially at the tenth time. (Also, my hair will no longer set in a nice wavy pattern though I’ve tried
henna baths, sombre rinses, and even India tonic water.) At other times I create Bedlam and make eccentric, oddball remarks about Borneo. I'm desprit! I know I shouldn't snatch at a man like this and that it can't be tolerated the way I behave like a boor by screaming all up and down the scale "Shut up!" in my own Scots way. I do declare that I understand what's different between girls and boys, but my lively spirits run away with me. And my apartment is becoming a slum. (P.S. I was once a deb—a serious-minded girl, too. I read Hardy in the Wessex edition as well as Marie Corelli.)

EVE

You are pretentious and cannot spell. Stop acting like a Cossack chief and pour some disinfectant on that sarcasm of yours: then you will have a framework within which your love can reach its peak. Could you not learn from a quiet pet—a bluetit, heron, dog, ram, she-ca., etc.? For your hair I can recommend some sticky black stuff which comes in a little sac—rum-scented, if you prefer.

MISS LONELYHEARTS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The correct solution to this crossword puzzle will be revealed in the next issue of WORD WAYS.)

VIAE

There are many cities and towns in America, and each of them has many streets. Some of these streets are, indeed, known as streets. Others, however, are designated as avenues, boulevards, roads, courts, circles, squares, terraces, drives, ways, broadways, parkways, freeways, throughways, expressways, skyways, tollways, highways, midways, places, plaisances, parks, plazas, extensions, lines, markets, lanes, alleys, crescents, and paths.

We have always wanted to compile a complete list of the whimsical ways in which ordinary streets are described, and the list just given is only a starter. If readers will send us additional designations actually in use in their communities, a supplementary list will be published in a future issue of WORD WAYS.

EXTREME FRENCH

It is claimed that the longest French word is a 25-letter specimen, ANTICONSTITUTIONNELLEMENT ("anticonstitutionally"). Likewise, it is claimed that the longest French place name is the hyphenated, 33-letter ROCHE-SUR-LINOTE-ET-SORANS-LES-CORDIERS.

These supposed records are pitiful compared with the corresponding English champions. Can any reader produce superior French examples?

WORD WAYS