AN ALL-CONSONANT CROSSWORD

DARRYL FRANCIS
Hampton, Middlesex, England

In August 1973 we offered a crossword puzzle consisting solely of three-letter all-vowel (AEIOUY) words. Seeing this puzzle, Palmer Peterson of Lennox, South Dakota tried his hand at constructing an all-consonant puzzle using the same crossword pattern. We were most intrigued by his effort, but discovered that many of his words had been taken from references eighty years or more old. We decided to construct an all-consonant crossword using contemporary dictionaries, and eventually succeeded with the offering below, based solely on Webster's Second, Webster's Third, and The Oxford English Dictionary.

As all-consonant three-letter words are considerably less common than all-vowel ones, certain compromises were necessary: some items are abbreviations rather than true words, and others are obsolete variants last used centuries ago. To aid the reader, all definitions have been made as transparent as possible.

Across

1. An insecticide
3. Obsolete form of drew
6. An exclamation
8. Bachelors of divinity
11. Obsolete form of stew
12. Unit of gamma ray intensity
13. Certain shot pellets
14. Scots form of muck
   (listed under muck)
16. Shore patrolmen
19. Clay pipes
21. Obsolete variant of prow
24. Obsolete form of true
25. Old Scots variant of use
   (listed under use)
26. Growling exclamation
27. Scots form of nun
   (listed under nun)
29. Televisions
31. Members of first families
32. A doctor of philosophy

Down

2. A doctor of science
4. Obsolete Scots form of rood
5. A hissed sound
6. Obsolete Scots form of toom
7. Island in Yuguslavia
8. Bowel movements
9. Bachelors of science
10. Hush
15. Obsolete form of word
17. Obsolete Scots form of poor
18. Extreme
19. Obsolete Scots form of tun
20. Obsolete form of sun
21. A sibilant signal
22. Old Scots variant of ug
   (listed under ug)
23. A conventional courtesy title
28. Obsolete form of wolf
30. Middle English variant of each