LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY
Brooklyn, New York

There are two ways to try this little teaser: either match the definitions in the left-hand (numbered) column with the words in the right-hand (lettered) column, or (if you really want a difficult challenge) attempt to guess the words whose origins are given, covering up the right-hand column and working without its help. The latter is rather tough to accomplish, for we have much mangled (Anglo-Saxon *mankel*, frequentative of *manken*) old English and foreign words over the centuries. By determining the etymologies of words, however, we often get new insights into unsuspected connections, learning that

* Sheer Tuesday, an old name for Maundy Thursday, used to be clean (Icelandic *skírí-pórsdagr*, a day of purification)
* moderns who do drugs are just availing themselves of them (Anglo-Saxon *dow*)
* dewsiers, the discarded valves of a pig's heart in Wiltshire dialect, are not "Jew's ears" but entrails (Old French *jusiers*)
* the *sept* of a clan is just a tail (Latin *secuta*) or following, resembling *sect*

1. a gum from Sumatra  
2. mud to rub on  
3. a pledge marked by a gift  
4. soldier armed with bow and arrow  
5. a ball of alabaster  
6. King Louis's badge  
7. hairy berry  
8. beet or leek soup  
9. house servant  
10. a cork batted back and forth  
11. a woollen band  
12. dragon herb  
13. an added name  
14. a winding pole  
15. a bend in the foot

For answers, see Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.