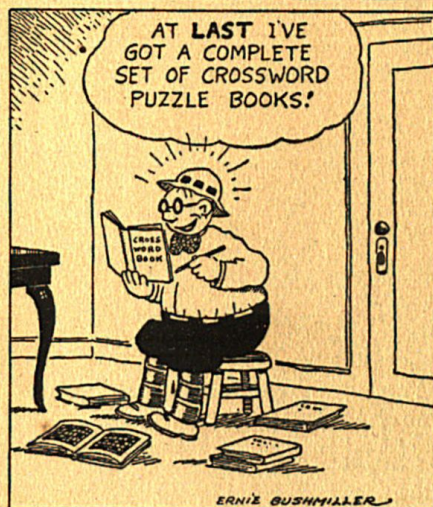
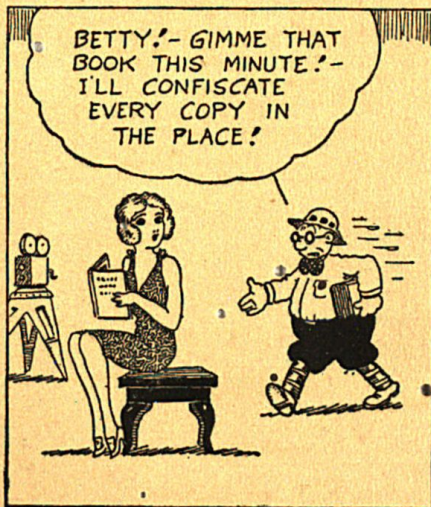
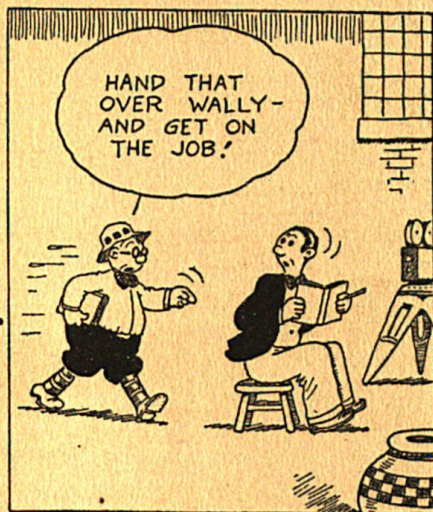
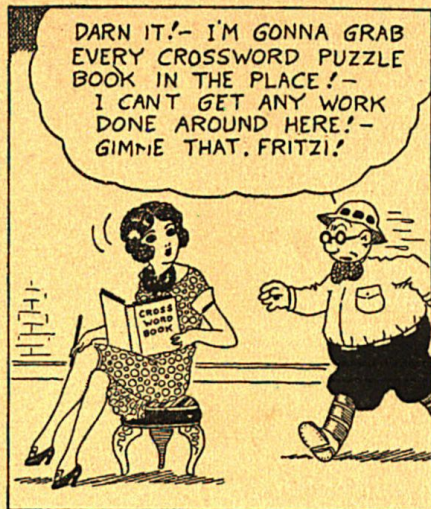


## FRITZI RITZ

"MR. BLOBBS COLLECTS SOME BOOKS"



Fritzi of the movies is a favorite character with readers of the *New York Evening World*, and Ernie Bushmiller, who chronicles her doings, contributes this "comic" for the benefit of Cross Word Puzzle fans.

**T**HE Sixth Cross Word Puzzle Book—this makes a round half dozen of the epoch-making publications, not counting *The Celebrities Cross Word Puzzle Book*, *The Cross Word Puzzle Manual*, and the various children's editions. Whether any one puzzler has survived all six issues, we have no means of knowing, yet there has been no demand so far for a Home for Maimed and Crippled Solvers. The total number of puzzle books that have been forced on an unsuspecting public, if placed end to end, would reach from where you are standing to Betelgeuse and back again to the largest three-toed sloth on the Amazon. Statisticians are working on other comparisons, and meanwhile pencils buzz busily and erasers scratch scrunchily and everybody's happy except the poor boy who can't discover a six-letter word meaning "one of two opposite points in the orbit of a moving body when it is in conjunction or opposition to the sun." Think how overjoyed he will be when he learns that there is such a word as "syzygy" in the English language!

It is easy to see that cross word puzzles have come to stay as a standard pastime for the world. The new dictionary recognizes the phrase and it has passed into the language uncapitalized, like bridge and solitaire. The daily papers can't get along without a puzzle ration and commuters would commit suicide by the score if they were deprived of their favorite time-killer. • A famous novelist tells us that doing cross words is becoming more fashionable than ever and a distinguished publisher solves three every evening before he can rest. From the lips of a librarian, we learn

## THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE BOOK

that puzzle books are circulated to be used with tracing paper, so that innumerable persons can be puzzled by the same book.

In this, the sixth collection of fifty new, original and hitherto unpublished puzzles, you will find again five additional diagramless problems. This kind of puzzle, making every man his own Sherlock Holmes, has become highly popular among the more practised solvers. Moreover, you will discover in Number 298 a puzzle built in two different languages. The definitions are given in Spanish, whereas the words to be filled in are English. This puts one more impediment in the way of the solver, and should prove a fascinating problem. Even if your knowledge of Spanish is nil, you should be able to make some headway, and if you can remember some of the Latin that was pounded into your head at school, you'll do even better. Anyway, we wish you luck—piles of it—with this extraordinary intricacy.

Another trick to make it harder for the solver is to declare yourself independent of one set of definitions, and solve, using either the Horizontal definitions only, or the Vertical only. This has been tried by jaded pencil-pushers after midnight with telling effect. Often you have to guess at the intersecting word and use the trial and error method to make it come out right. We suggest an especially large eraser be purchased immediately by those adopting this method. A thick sheet of paper to cover up the unwanted set of definitions is the only other equipment you need.

There has been much argument as to the ethics of including the answers in the back of the book and many people contend

## THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE BOOK

we are corrupting the morals of the nation by placing such temptation in the way of earnest and innocent young solvers. We suggest that those who have the peeking habit bribe a trusted friend to cut out the answer pages, making him swear not to return them except at the point of a gun. Or the friend might take them with him on a trip around the world, financed of course by the would-be solver. In this manner, you would probably have all fifty puzzles solved to your satisfaction by the time he returned, having left the answers by mistake in Borneo in the custody of a gnu.

On this momentous occasion of the Sexennial Celebration of puzzle books, we seize the opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed to the success of the biggest infant industry in the country. Our contributors, Ra bless 'em, have constructed some masterpieces for your jollification. Long life to all our solvers, clasping a Venus pencil, with eraser. Our best regards to the dictionary-compilers, who allow such delicious animals as the roc, moa, emu, gnu, ai, unau, ibex, ibis, kea, ern, ayeaye, okapi, aardvark, dugong, et al, to gather like a happy family in the pages of one book. We, the Editors, who have probably handled, corrected, solved, constructed and generally juggled more cross words than any other trio in existence, still feel their tremendous fascination and still may be discovered puzzling for pleasure. And so, from the depth of our black and white hearts, we salute you, Fellow-Puzzlers.

PROSPER BURANELLI  
F. GREGORY HARTSWICK  
MARGARET PETHERBRIDGE

## DO THEM DIAGRAMLESS

**S**OLVING without the diagram brings into the art of cross word puzzling an element which makes it the perfect recreation for the lover of cerebral exercise. To the ordinary verbal jugglery of cross word puzzling are added trends of thought a good deal like those to be discovered in the game of chess. You have to reason, to create by a process of deductive thought. And yet it is the peculiar merit of "doing them diagramless" that, instead of being startled and baffled by a sudden, abstruse problem, you are led on by trends of calculation and inference until you are almost insensibly in the middle of the prettiest kind of problem.

Building up the diagram, with its pattern of black squares, is accomplished by drawing inferences from the numbered definitions. A single try, preferably with an easy puzzle such as the first of the diagramless constructions that follow, will quickly reveal the intellectual mechanics of the operation. Of course, every time you have a word filled in you have determined the position of at least one black square. You had best begin with the upper horizontals. If you can guess one of those you have a good start. If you can't, try the verticals that key with them. Several of these determined will give you cues to the horizontals. Watch for verticals and horizontals with the same number. That means that they key on the first letter, or, in other words, begin with the same letter. If you have, say, horizontal 36 and then 39, and your verticals are numbered

37 and 38, then, of course, the latter words begin with letters that key in the horizontal word. If you get stuck with the top of the puzzle, try it at the bottom. It is probable that a cross word pattern will possess some sort of symmetry, or at least some sort of pictorial relevancy, so that you can put together data arrived at from top and bottom and solve them both up to the middle.

By all means, do them diagramless. You will find it the greatest mental sport in the world.

## RULES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CROSS WORD PUZZLES

*Reported by the Committee on Rules, and adopted by The Amateur Cross Word Puzzle League of America at its meeting, September 27, 1924, in The Wanamaker Auditorium, New York City.*

### 1. PATTERN

The pattern shall interlock all over.

Only approximately one-sixth of the squares shall be black.

Only approximately one-tenth of the letters shall be unkeyed.

The design shall be symmetrical.

### 2. WORDS

Obsolete, and dialectic words may be used in moderation, if plainly marked and accessible in some standard dictionary, such as Webster's New International (Merriam's), Funk & Wagnalls' and Century.

Foreign words that are more or less familiar and are easily accessible, may be used, but should be marked with the language to which they belong.

Technical terms that are found in a standard dictionary may be used.

Abbreviations, prefixes and suffixes, should be avoided as far as possible. When used, they should be plainly marked and must be legitimate.

## THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE BOOK

### 3. DEFINITIONS

Great variety may be attained in writing the definitions and as wide a scope as possible must be left to the constructor. The only requirement is common sense. This means that the definitions may be of the safe and sane dictionary kind, may be literary or historical, may employ secondary meanings cleverly, may be legitimately funny. Synonyms that are too far removed from the word and what Gelett Burgess calls "smarty-cat definitions" should be avoided.



## HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS WORD PUZZLE

**T**HERE are two essential points that must be remembered by initiates into the cross word puzzlers' fraternity. First, the numbers in the squares refer to the definitions; secondly, there should be but one letter to each white square.

Figure 1 shows a cross word puzzle challenging each and every one of us to solve it. Looking the puzzle over we find that 1 horizontal calls for a seven letter word meaning "disparage." That is not so easy, so we leave it temporarily. We go on to the next one, which is a three letter word meaning "a cereal grass." What else could it be but OAT? Therefore we ink in OAT in the proper squares. "Vice Admiral." That most assuredly must be VA. We place that into position. The ninth, tenth and eleventh do not come to our minds immediately, so we pass them up. We will catch them on the cross check. Twelve is familiar, however, and with a little thought we place LO in the vacant squares. The rest do not come to us, so we leave them also, and turn to the verticals.

### EXAMPLE

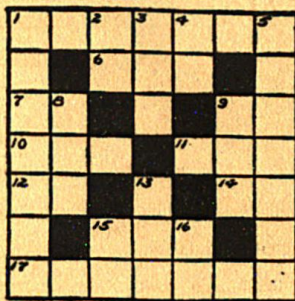


FIG. 1

### DEFINITIONS

#### Horizontal

- 1 Disparage
- 6 Cereal grass
- 7 Abbr. Vice Admiral
- 9 An edge-tool
- 10 Urge
- 11 Skill
- 12 Behold
- 14 Prefix: good
- 15 Impair
- 17 Agreement

#### Vertical

- 1 Evolve
- 2 Toward
- 3 A rodent
- 4 Near
- 5 A web
- 8 Gone by
- 9 A land measure
- 13 A male sheep
- 15 Indeed
- 16 Disordered type

## THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE BOOK

Looking over the diagram (See Figure 2) we find that one vertical calls for a seven letter word whose third and fifth letters are V and L, respectively and which is defined as



FIG. 2

“evolve.” The V and the L give us the clue. The word is DEVELOP. We place it in the diagram. Two, three and four are easy, for we have three clues to work on and we find the proper words without much difficulty. The next one is beyond us, so we go on to the one numbered 8. We find that a three-letter word—starting with A—meaning “gone by,” is needed. The clues of A and O enable us to get that without much trouble, and we place AGO in the square. We pass by nine, but thirteen is easy. “A male sheep?” Why, of course, the word is RAM.

From now on the going is easy. We have plenty of clues

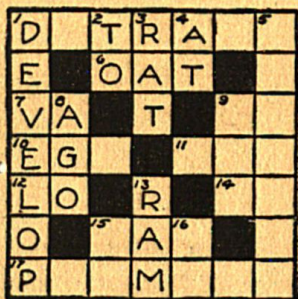


FIG. 3

to the words that we do not know. (See Figure 3.) Rechecking the horizontals, we find that we have the first, third, fourth and fifth letters of “disparage,” and with their aid we easily see that the word is DETRACT. Looking for a two-letter word meaning “an edge-tool,” we soon find that there is but one word that will fit. We place AX in position. With nine vertical beginning with an A it is easy to find that ARE is the proper word. Ten horizontal

## THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE BOOK

proves to be EGG and eleven becomes ART. We say to ourselves that if we could only get five vertical we would have the puzzle solved. Well, why not? Is the second letter an a, e, i, o, or u? The definition gives it as "a web." What word will fit but TEXTURE? We place that into position. Now, we find that we have the puzzle almost completed. Fifteen horizontal needs a three-letter word meaning "impair." Its middle letter must be an A. With the A to guide us that is simple. The word is SAP. Fifteen and sixteen being two-letter words are easily found, and we place SO and PI into position. We now find that we have the puzzle completed with one exception. Seventeen horizontal has to be found. Its first third, fourth, fifth and seventh letters are P OMI E. A consonant is needed for the second letter, and R seems to be the most logical choice. That gives us the word, which is defined as "agreement." (See Figure 4.)

We settle back into our chair with a sigh of content at the thought of a job well done. But that is not the finish. Rather it is but the start. Now that we have tasted the pleasures of cross word puzzling, we are

loath to give our time to anything else. What other amusement offers the pleasure, instruction and satisfaction that is to be found in Cross Word Puzzles? There is but one answer to that question, and—foregoing the movies—we settle down to the elusive task of tracking words to their lairs.



FIG. 4

## DO'S AND DON'TS FOR SOLVERS

**D**ON'T get scared if you can't guess the first horizontal word. Go through the list till you find a definition that you're sure of. That is the simplest method of beginning the solution. When you have written in all the words you are sure of, you will have plenty of clues for the unknowns.

Don't spend too much time with the long words unless you are sure of them. They will appear when the short ones have been solved. Of course, not all the short ones are easy, but they are generally more readily attended to than the long ones. Also, there are more of them, increasing the chances of finding familiar faces among the definitions.

If you think a word is right, pencil it in lightly till you are sure. This saves erosion of paper and temper. But never hesitate to try a word that may be right. The trial and error method holds in puzzling as it does in life.

Remember that the horizontals furnish a sure check on the verticals, and vice versa.

If you are hopelessly stuck, try another puzzle. Inspiration sometimes waits for a return engagement.

A pleasant feeling of something attempted, something done, accompanies the solution of a cross word puzzle. It's good for the inferiority complex.