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Across

1. "She sighs forever on her — bed" wrote Pope and writing implements I've haphazardly discarded make me thoughtful as I try to write clues for this puzzle. (7)
5. Robert Burton (1577–1640) said they're all mad. These clues quote several. (5)
8. This pleasure is a Speserian oxymoron. (7)
9. Swinburne called silence a tongueless one and one of the Latin 5 would appear so if right left. (5)
11. "There is a vice ... for which I would not —" (*Measure for Measure*) ; that is, beg quietly and be first. (5)
12. Here's 20,000 men making ice cream? (7)
14. "While 1 5 8 9s keep, Sleepless themselves to — — 18 20" (Alexander Pope) (4,5)
18. "By the common sense of — uncorrupted by literary prejudices " (Dr .Johnson)
20. "— perchance to dream, aye! ..." a sergeant-at-law, Mr Cummings and the prince take their repose. (5)
22. One labyrinth doth astonish. "Such labour'd nothings in so strange a style — th' unlearn'd and make the learned smile" (Pope) (5)
23. Fuss after a storm turned Spanish too darn troublesome! (7)
24. "What, it's you, the padded man That wears the — ." (Tennyson) A corset skeleton remains amusing I suppose. (5)

25. A saucer of spilt milk reminds me of a pause in the middle of a line of poetry. (7)

Down

2. In order to be lean somehow one must make possible to eat less. (6)
3. Botched assay in Mumbai of his one precious possession perhaps means this Hindu lives by begging. (7)
4. You in France? Hah! *Ça alors!* (4)
6. "Tears live in an —."
7. A man can raise one east of Suez. (6)
10. "At — curfew-tide, and at midnight ..." (Hardy) my hot soup had gone cold. (5)
13. Can make ice cream with Ben and mayhem with Tom. (5)
15. Palau makeup inhabited 3000 years. "Realms and — were as plates dropp'd from his pocket." (W.S. A&C) (7)
16. Ascetic crab squatter (6)
17. Red back after so many hours in the sun is sore; be gentle with the lotion. (6)
19. Whirling jazzman: "How fearful and — 'tis" (*King Lear*) (5)
21. By palm of hand or sole of foot we came, then I left the girl in disguise with the Duke. (4)