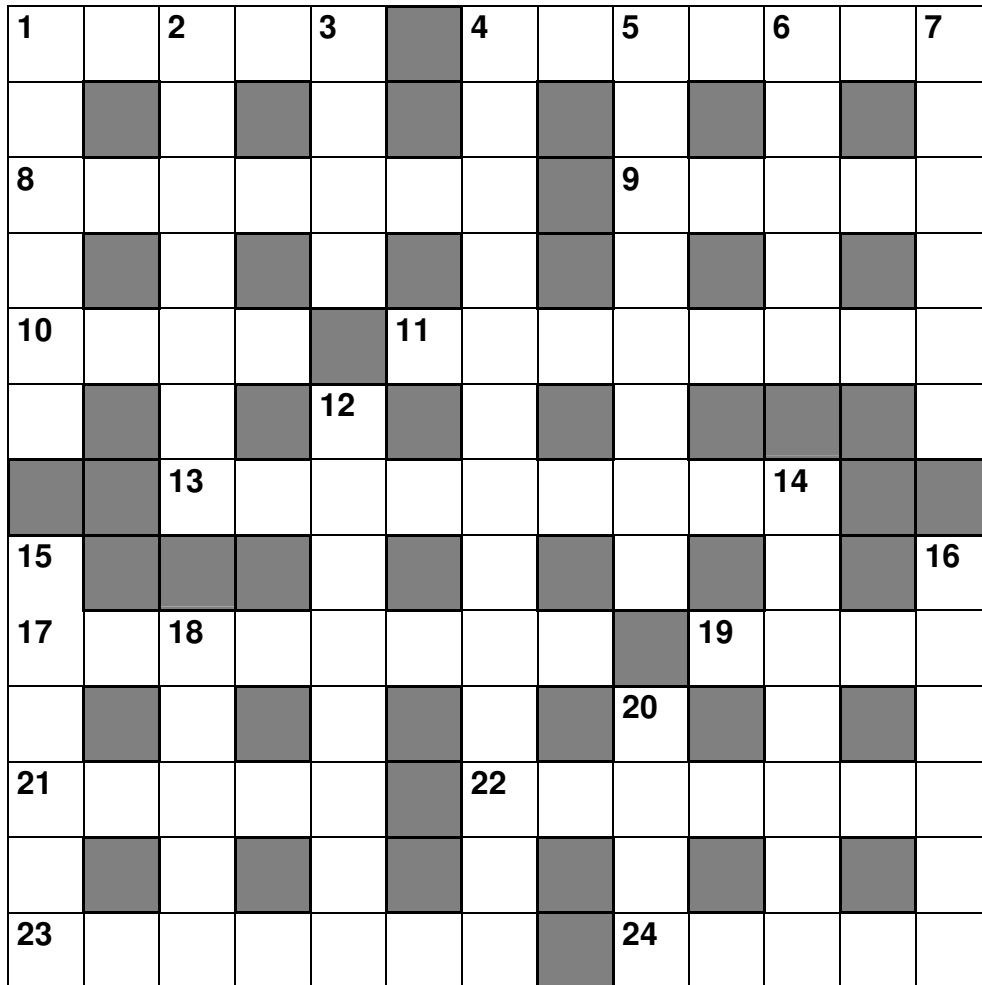


# Crossword No. 252

by Ian P. Hudson



## Across

- 1 Ex-rooster, with headgear in place! (5)
- 4 Boil equipment vigorously to reveal data speed unit (7)
- 8 Atonal? I explode that for SE Asian language. (7)
- 9 River close to mountain range: definitely of the countryside. (5)
- 10 Nothing comes before friend when choosing seasonal birthstone. (4)
- 11 A leggy or grotesque rain diversion. (8)
- 13, 19, 20D Junior literature promotion credible when kooks reorganize. (9,4,4)
- 17 Year in France shared, in a whirl, with mellow fruitfulness? (8)
- 19 *see* 13
- 21 No, and in France this needs nine players! (5)
- 22 House chair who calls upon each actual such. (7)
- 23 Polishing utensil for us in backward play areas (7)
- 24 Boomerang sounds like small singer, just looks different. (5)

## Down

- 1 Actor Simon looking inexperienced? (6)
- 2 Commonplace ceramic image but with publicity for French gent. (7)
- 3 Secure with claw. (4)
- 4 Agendas irk kin awfully as pre-1914 imperial and naval rivals (4,3,6)
- 5 Peer, hair silver, reforming PM, tea namesake, dad of 16 (4,4)
- 6 Fruit and 12: Maria Halle. (5)
- 7 Illusionist, counter (maybe of notes). (6)
- 12 Farm list confuses movie actor. (4,4)
- 14 Breathing tube makes noise during sleep, somehow, in Kuala Lumpur. (7)
- 15 Frequents hiding places for coot and heron? (6)
- 16 Islet, surrounded by sky: leave the beaten path! (6)
- 18 Go after dusky complexion — dance in the Argentine! (5)
- 20 *see* 13A