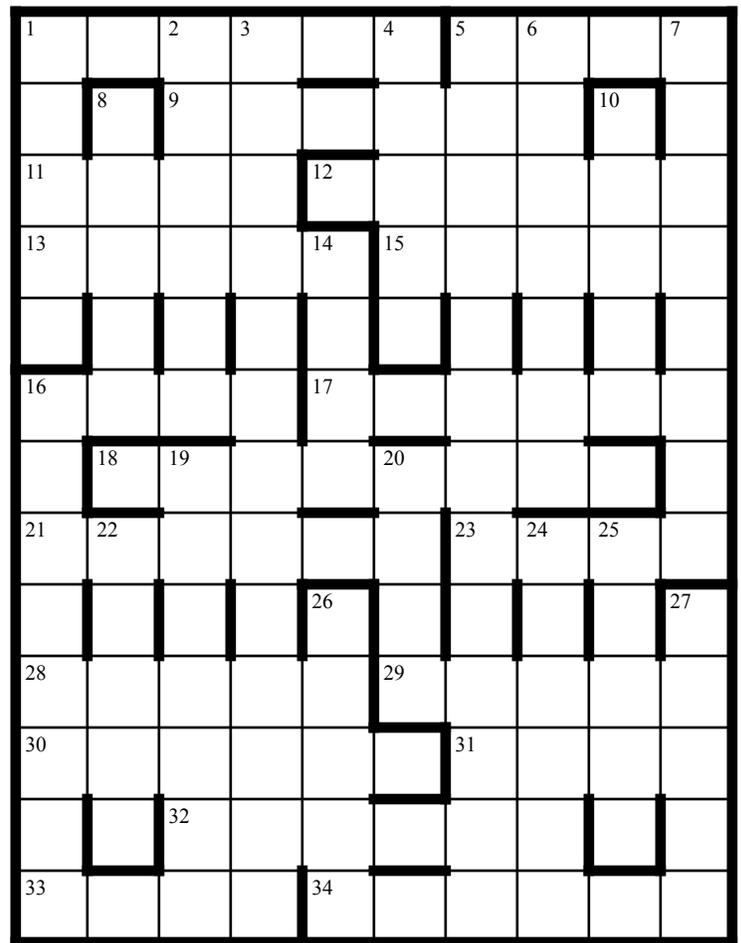


A Lighter Challenge

by Ucaimhu

As befits this event, here's a rather less intense challenge. Seven of the clues in this puzzle are wordplay-only; their answers in the grid should be illuminated, in one of two ways determined as follows: In all the rest of the clues, the wordplay yields a letter string that (i) has an extra letter, (ii) is missing a letter, or (iii) has one letter replaced with another letter. All the replacing letters from the (iii) clues, and then all the replaced letters, both in clue order, will spell out an item that some illuminated answers have; the extra and missing letters from (i) and (ii) clues (separately, in clue order) will spell out the type of illumination to use for illuminated answers that don't and do have this item (respectively). Illuminated answers on one path through the grid (which are all the answers illuminated as per (i)) describe this cryptic; illuminated answers on another path (starting and ending with answers illuminated as per (ii)) give an additional appropriate message.



ACROSS

1. Charisse is embracing grand new bunch of stars (6)
5. Naval officers cuss gutless doctors (4, *abbr.*)
9. Character played by Tom Hiddleston on the radio (3-3)
11. Gold in (gevalt!) circulating Chinese currency (4)
12. Tool from Britain one included in photos (6)
13. Some of the ear jewelry Brown left (5)
15. Improperly utters untruths, by the way (5)
16. Let it remain in sitz bath, alternatively (4)
17. Peeled lemon contains red-and-yellow sporophyte (6)
18. Flapper that eats two pieces of this a year (8)
21. Left Jay Leno's toe in back of that branching pipe (1 5)
23. See some French clothing for Polly (4)
28. Sadly ego-filled diarist Nin (5)
29. Vermouth — about 1.76 imperial pints (5)
30. Navy at first prevents our quick entrance (6)
31. Navy beheaded Lithuanian's neighbor (4)
32. Whine about marks made by Don Diego de la Vega (6)
33. Utters short smart-alecky remarks (4)
34. Unsatisfactory plan to discard Ace and Penny's tips (6)

DOWN

1. Leader in Cairo, Egypt lacking grand burial chamber (5)
2. Peer from England's stripped naked at court (6)
3. In Tahiti, we will eat (before I riot wildly) nut with little food value (13)
4. Craft base for window (5)
5. 201-pound movie star Moore lifted 45" director (5 1 7)
6. Slugger Lenny Banks, who modeled around K Street (7)
7. Rather tall Cuban definitely kisses flirt (3-5)
8. Leave boxes there at the rear (5)
10. After it has been cured, grass gets very soft (5)
14. Encourage actor Kaplan to start talking (4)
16. High-level canvasses reflected arch-king's troubles (8)
19. Some radios a pep squad programs for Apple fans (3 4)
20. Cross replaces circle in home page's code (4, *abbr.*)
22. In Paris, I note the state Rome is in (5)
24. "Stuff" means "barely lustrous fabric" (6)
25. Average slugger from Georgia named Cobb (5)
26. I add all of the integers up for a car maker (5)
27. Upright nun eschews small Abominable Snowmen (5)