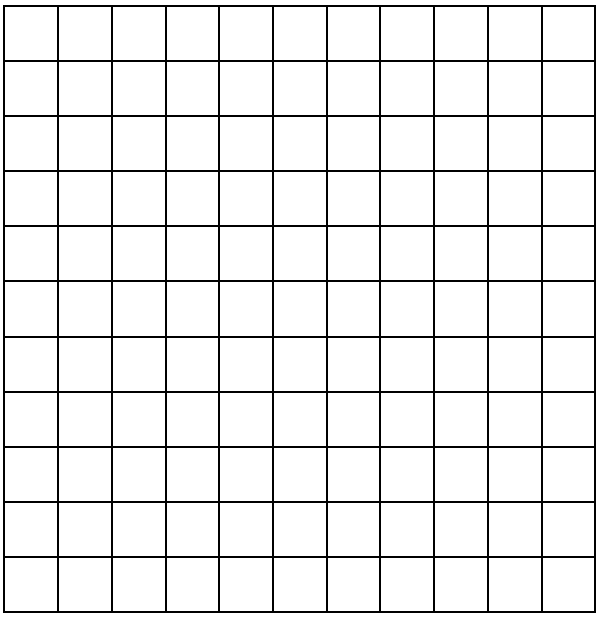
Puzzle #198 — November 2017 "Philosopher"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to nine letters, and four are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Nine across words and eight down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those seventeen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a five-word phrase related to the mystery entry. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. Great crush turned around operating room
2. Diverse group of eager men I corrupted
3. Shrill rebel breaks down after time
4. Curse Indian trapping a whale
5. Single color shift
6. Bill is polite about speech defect
7. Constance has to get darker
8. Desire in secret without resistance
9. Beginning to tap and consume source of nourishment
10. English nurse made unusual guarantee
11. Clambake includes meat
12. Very large nail replaces rod in cover
13. *Mystery entry*
14. Twister carries earth in shoe
15. Brothel encouraged to shelter Trojan woman
16. Working hard, removing 50 for putting aside
17. Chemical assistant swallows metal
18. Open throughout territory
19. Influential man lies terribly
20. Polish the French monetary unit
21. Mix losing gravity in marsh
22. Gas sickened none
23. Remove nitrogen from slag to get juice
24. Lack of restraint wearing a ring

Down

1. Endless torment changed teacher
2. Crone's damaged screen
3. Indigene is unsophisticated about tempo
4. Jude excited about a verse already seen
5. Crown without old brass instrument
6. Restyle a vehicle with permission
7. A bitter struggle for a hat
8. Risk spoiling low, shrill sound
9. New member pays rupee for large badge
10. Lineman Charlie to go in
11. Mailer returned with alias for Lamb
12. Forcefully take back empty boat
13. West gets new hair
14. Tenor sporting title causes commotion
15. Disgrace of fake ecstasy
16. Sew shoddy, confining shirt
17. Married Native American is silent
18. Note anger in delusion
19. Maine braced for Japanese art form
20. Mark's name for flax
21. Get up around noon to wash
22. Send a moving vehicle
23. Talk about fish safety
24. No lens-smashing rock band