

dentata. This is the bone which allows the head to turn in any direction, hence it is sometimes called the axis or pivot of the neck. Between these two bones, on the upper side, is the only place where the spinal cord is not covered with bone—a spot about the size of a twenty-five cent piece. Here is where the operation of pithing is performed in destroying the horse. It is done by running a sharp instrument, such as a knife, fairly in the centre of the neck about four inches behind the ears, and passing in this hole through the coverings of the spine into that very vital organ called the spinal cord, causing death instantaneously. The next four bones receive no name, and are about the same in size and length. The last, or seventh bone is only about one-half the length of the preceding ones and receives no special name.

DORSAL OR BACK-BONES.

In considering these bones we find eighteen in number. The chief points of interest about them are the height of the spines on the upper part of the bones. These large spines form the withers of the horse, as you will notice in the skeleton. On either side of these bones we find the ribs attached, eighteen pairs corresponding with the number of bones in this region.

LUMBAR OR SMALL-OF-BACK BONES.

In considering these bones we find six in number, and they are situated immediately above the kidneys.

SACRAL OR RUMP BONES.

In considering these bones we find five in number in the young horse, which become united and form one in the adult. These are situated between the upper hip bones and help to form the rump of the horse. Beneath these bones the bladder is situated.

COCCYGEAL OR TAIL BONES.

In considering these bones we find eighteen in number. The principal points of interest in these are, they become smaller as they proceed towards the point of the tail.

HIP OR PELVIC BONES.

These are three in number, viz.: Ilium, ischium, and pubis. The largest is the ilium, passing upwards and forwards, the outer part of it forming the pin of the hip or outer angle. The back or posterior part of this bone forms a third of the articular surface of