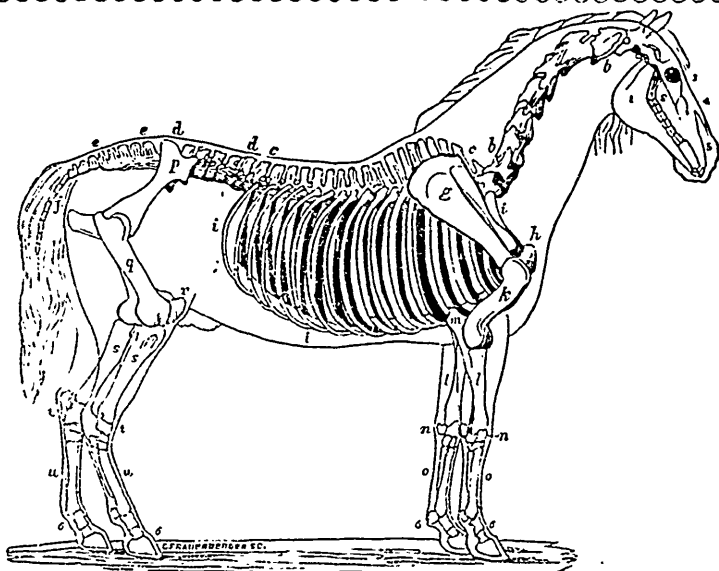


## Veterinary Department.

Conducted by A. SMITH, V. S.



### THE HORSE.

(Continued from last number)

The bones of the hind extremities are composed of the sacrum, the ossa innominata which is formed of three bones, viz: the ilium, the ischium, and pubis. These bones have already been described in a previous number. The remaining bones are the femur (9 a), the patella (s), the tibia (t), the fibula (7) the bones of the hock (10 10), the Metatarsal (n).

The femur is the largest bone in the body and is placed in an oblique direction downwards and forwards, and presents a shaft and two extremities. The shaft is smooth and prominent in front and flat posteriorly. The posterior surface has near its middle a round rounded portion to which is attached one of the heads of a large muscle called the triceps abductor femoris. Rising from the upper third of the external lateral side is a sharp prominence called the trochanter externus, and from the internal lateral side rises a similar prominence called the internal trochanter. Extending from the internal trochanter is a ridge which receives the name of the trochanteric ridge, to which is attached the pectineous muscle. The lower half of the bone is constricted and has posteriorly a deep fossa called the supra condyloid fossa. The superior extremity is divided into two portions, one smooth and hemispherical, known as head of the femur, the other portion constricted. The head of the femur is lodged in a cavity called the acetabulum, forming the hip joint, on the inner side of the head is a deep notch into which is inserted the round ligament. On the outer

part of the superior extremity is a large irregular prominence called the trochanter major, which presents two parts, the part looking backwards is called the summit, the other portion the convexity.

The inferior extremity presents two condyles and a trochlea. The condyles are posterior and divided by a deep notch called the intra condyloid notch. The trochlea presents two eminences divided by a vertical groove, the internal is the larger, and rounded. With the trochlea articulates the patella; the internal condyle is the larger and articulates with the tibia and semilunar cartilages. The Patella is an irregular bone, the anterior surface is convex and roughened for the attachment of ligaments, the posterior surface smooth, articulating with the trochlea of the femur, and is divided by a prominence into two concavities. When the patella is displaced the animal is said to be *stiff d.* Partial displacement of the patella is of common occurrence in foals of a weakly constitution, especially when running on hilly grounds. This arises from intential absorption of the trochlea of the femur, causing the patella to slip outwards almost at every step.

Situated betwixt the femur and hock is the tibia. This bone is larger superiorly than inferiorly, the outer anterior surface of the body is grooved, and in it is lodged the extensor pedis muscle, the inner anterior surface is covered simply by skin and fascia, the posterior surface is marked by numerous longitudinal furrows for the reception of muscles. The superior extremity with the patella and femur form the stifle joint. Between this bone and the condyles of the femur are interposed the semilunar cartil