

a sort of hook. At ten years the marks are supposed to have disappeared from the central upper incisors; at eleven from the laterals; and at twelve from the corners. It must be remembered that while this is the rule, the changes taking place in the upper teeth are not as regular as in the lower. After eight years the general shape of the teeth gradually changes; they become longer, deeper from before backwards, and narrower from side to side; the table surfaces first assume a rather round form and afterwards become somewhat triangular. In some cases, after the teens are past, the teeth become shorter, but this is not by any means constant. My experience has taught me that, while set rules may be laid down as to the appearances of the teeth at certain ages until 35 years or older, no definite dependence can be placed upon these rules; the condition of the teeth in advanced age will depend to a considerable extent upon the quality of the teeth (some are harder than others, as anybody who is in the habit of dressing teeth can testify) and upon the nature of the food upon which the animal has subsisted. Below will be seen a few cuts representing the appearances the teeth should present at certain ages.

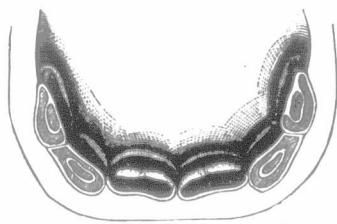


Fig. 1.—Lower jaw at 2½ to 3 years.

The central temporary incisors have been shed and replaced by a permanent pair, which should be up full and in wear at three years and sometimes are at 2½.

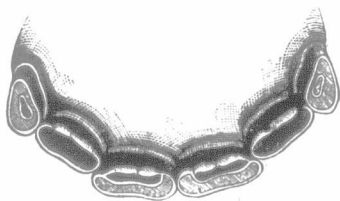


Fig. 2.—Lower jaw at 3½ to 4 years.

The lateral temporary incisors have been shed and replaced by a permanent pair, which should be well up and in wear at four years, and sometimes are at 3½. The central pair show a little wear on the outer edge.

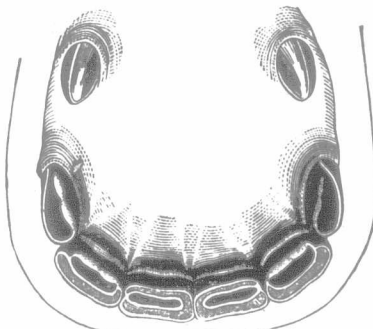


Fig. 3.—Lower jaw at 4½ to 5 years.

The corner temporary incisors have been shed and replaced by a permanent pair, which should be up full and in wear at five years, and sometimes are at 4½. The centrals show wear at both edges, and the outer edges of the laterals have begun to wear. In male animals the canine teeth have appeared, and at five should be fairly well grown. It is quite rare to notice these in females, but occasionally we see them either full-sized or rudimentary. Therefore, it will be seen that at five years a horse has a full mouth of permanent teeth.

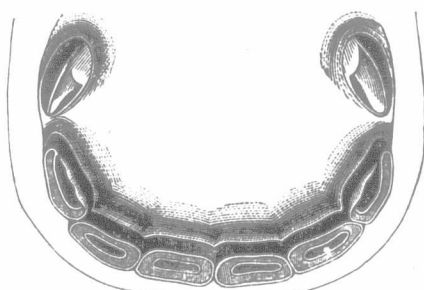


Fig. 4.—Lower jaw at 6 years.

The marks have disappeared from the centrals, the laterals are showing wear, and the inner edges of the corners are even with the outer.

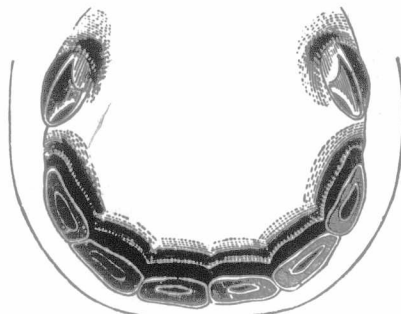


Fig. 5.—Lower jaw at 7 years.

The marks have disappeared from the laterals, the corners are showing wear, and both edges are worn to a smooth surface.

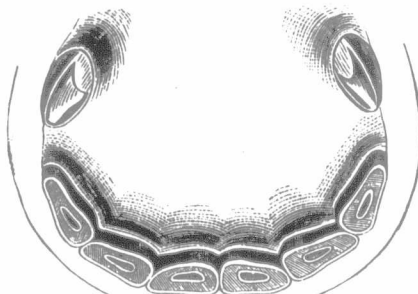


Fig. 6.—Lower jaw at 8 years.

The marks have disappeared from the corner teeth, and all the teeth are evenly in wear.

At nine years the lower incisors are all well worn down, with almost flat surfaces, there being little cavity left.

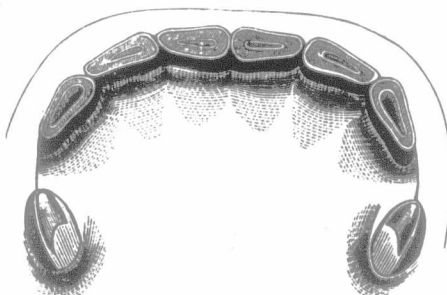


Fig. 7.—Upper jaw at 10 years.

The mark is almost gone out of the centrals, is still quite visible in the laterals, and clearly defined in the corners.

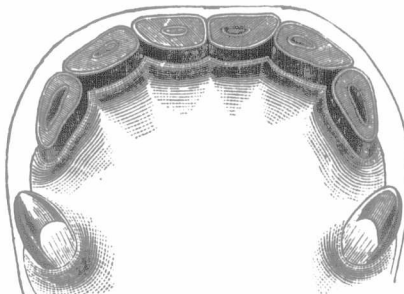


Fig. 8.—Upper jaw at 11 years.

The marks have disappeared from the laterals, but are still visible in the corners.

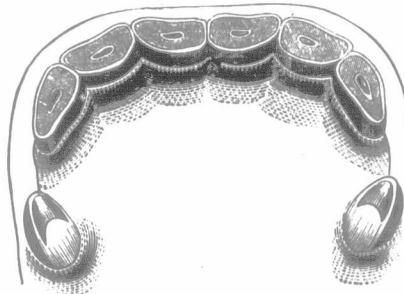


Fig. 9.—Upper jaw at 12 years.

The marks have disappeared from the corners, and the table surfaces of all are in wear.

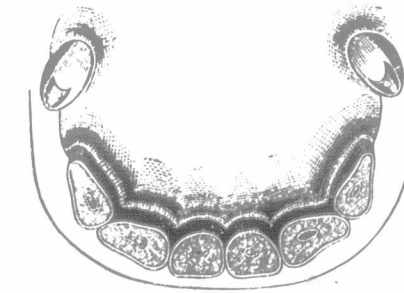


Fig. 10.—Lower jaw at 13 years.

The table surfaces of the central pair are nearly round, those of the laterals becoming so, and those of the corners gaining in thickness compared to width.

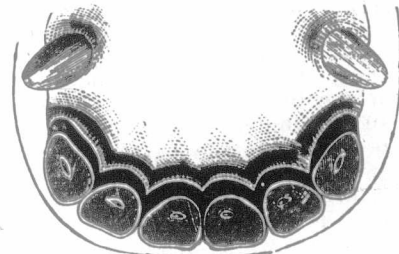


Fig. 11.—Lower jaw at 14 years.

The table surfaces of the laterals are almost round, and those of the corners becoming so.

At 15 years the surfaces of the corner lower incisors have become round, at 16 those of the central upper incisors, at 17 the lateral, and at 18 the corner. In the meantime the surfaces of the lower teeth have been gradually assuming a triangular form, and at about 20 those of the upper jaw gradually take on the same shape. At about 15 the points of the canine teeth begin to wear flat, and this gradually continues.

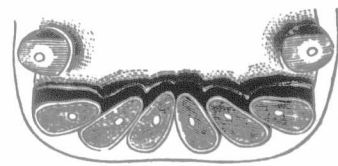


Fig. 12.—Lower jaw at 26 years.

The lower incisors are all somewhat triangular, and twice the depth from before backwards as from side to side. The canines have become quite flat on top.



Fig. 13.—Upper jaw at 29 years.

All the teeth are somewhat triangular, and twice as thick as they are broad. The canines are quite flat on top.

While these figures show what we expect to see, as already stated, they are not reliable after the animal has reached 12 years; and the age, after that, must be judged by the general appearance of the mouth and head, and it requires a great deal of observation and experience to acquire a reasonable degree of skill. "WHIP."

STOCK.

Improved Sires for Improved Stock.

If there is one thing more than another which pedigree breeding has taught, it is the value of using a good sire. It takes a long time before this lesson can be universally appreciated. There are some breeders whom nothing but adversity will teach; others are willing to profit by the experience of the many, and are ready to adopt the lessons which can be obviously deduced. It is a pity that in these times of enlightenment and advanced ideas the simplest of all lessons cannot be absorbed by small breeders. It is with the small breeder that the future lies, and the sooner he adapts himself to a more successful policy the better will it be for himself and for the breed which he favors. It is not enough to have a well-bred sire. That certainly is a primary consideration, for, as every breeder knows, there is nothing more perplexing in breeding than the frequency with which atavism occurs. It is satisfactory to note, however, that when characteristics have become more fixed by years of registered breeding, breeders are more and more coming to regard it as essential that the trumpeted merits of good back breeding should be displayed in the animal itself. The old principle that like produces like is truer now than it was fifty years ago, because of the increased prepotency of line-bred stock. Nothing condemns the policy of a breeder more effectively than the use of an indifferent horse on good mares, or, for that matter, a moderate bull on better cows. As a rule, the farmer is not deficient in useful breeding mares or roomy cows, but it would form painful reading to learn how often he had misused his trust by the use of an indifferent sire. It is a very safe rule to patronize a sire better than the females. There is everything to gain and nothing to lose. The initial cost is a mere bagatelle, compared with the difference in price of the progeny. It is a misfortune that many farmers expect too much of their mares or their cows. This, at all events, seems a reasonable deduction from their policy when they use very indifferent sires. The point we wish to accentuate is that it pays to use a good sire. It is short-sighted policy to expect too much of the dams.—Farmer and Stockbreeder.