

where it is worked about by the contracting of the bowel and the nourishment taken out. After the food is worked back out of this bowel, and the nourishment taken out of it, it enters into what is known as the floating colon, which is ten feet long and about two inches in diameter, or double the size of the small bowels. It is thrown into folds or pleats, and, as that part of the food that has no nourishment in it passes through, it is worked into balls which pass back and are emptied into the rectum or back gut. This part of the bowels, same as the small intestines, is suspended by a sheet or fold from the back bones, and is situated at the back part of the belly, on the left side, behind the small bowels.

Rectum or Back Gut.—It is sometimes known as the straight bowel, which is the last part of the intestines, and is about eighteen inches long. The coats of this bowel are a continuation of the large bowels, but each coat is thicker and heavier. Above this bowel, are the bones of the rump; below it, in the horse, we find the bladder and other small glands. In the mare we find what is known as the womb and the vagina, which is the passage into the womb from the outside, and at the sides we find the bones which help to form the hip cavity. At the back part is found what is known as the anus, which is situated immediately under the tail. The use of the rectum is to hold the balls as they pass back from the floating colon and empty in here. When the rectum gets full and presses on the sides of the wall, it stimulates the nerves, which cause the muscular coat of the rectum to contract, while the muscle of the anus dilates or opens out, causing the feces or manure to pass out.

The Glands, which assist in digestion, are the liver, pancreas and the spleen.

The Liver is the largest gland in the body; it weighs from ten to twelve pounds in the horse, and is situated between the stomach and diaphragm or curtain which separates the cavities, and is held to its place by several strong ligaments; it is of a dark brown color, and its use is to secrete the fluid called bile, which is a greenish color and very bitter to the taste. There is no gall bladder in the horse, simply a tube which passes down from the liver to the small bowel emptying six inches behind the stomach. It is along this tube where gall stones are sometimes situated. The liver is largely supplied with blood vessels and nerves.

The Pancreas is another very important gland situated behind the liver and in front of the kidneys, lying along near the back