

CHAPTER XV. THE TEETH.

THE teeth are situated in the mouth, in the upper and lower jaws. They are made up of the same tissue as bone, but they contain $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more of the earthy salts, this is what makes them so very hard. Unlike bone, they can stand exposure to air and friction without becoming diseased. The teeth are made up of three hard substances, viz.: dentine, or ivory; enamel; and crusta petrosa. The dentine or ivory is situated in the upper part of the tooth around the pulp or nerve cavity; it is largely supplied with nerves which pass through it from the pulp cavity, and is of a yellowish color. The enamel is the hardest substance of the tooth and covers over the outside of all the exposed part of the tooth, this substance is characterized by its whiteness, and unlike the dentine, there is no blood vessels or nerves in it, and if part of the enamel is broken off it is never replaced again, and the tooth below the part broken off generally becomes decayed. The crusta petrosa is found in the fangs or roots of the teeth and the parts situated below the gum, this substance is the softest part of the tooth. Each tooth is divided into the body or crown, which is the part above the gum, the table of the tooth, which is the part that comes into wear on the top. The neck of the tooth is the part where the gums are attached, and the fangs or roots are the parts situated down in the bone.

The uses of the teeth are to masticate or chew the food, and are also used to tell the age of the animal. There are three kinds of teeth found in the horse, viz.: The incisors or front teeth, which are situated in the front part of the mouth just inside the lips, are twelve in number, six above and six below. The canine or bridle teeth, which are found mostly in the horse or male animal and are often absent in the mare, are four in number, two in the upper jaw and two in the lower jaw, one on each side, a couple of inches back from the front teeth. These teeth are from a quarter of an inch to three-quarters of an inch above the gum, they are round and pointed and are of no particular use. They resemble the eye teeth in other animals. The molars or back teeth are twenty-four in number, six on each side in the upper jaw, and six on each side in the lower jaw, their use is to grind and masticate the food.