

THE VETERINARY SCIENCE

PART I. ANATOMY OF THE HORSE.

CHAPTER I.

BONE.

BONES are hard, yellowish-white, insensitve objects which form the skeleton of animals. Living bone is bluish pink, insensitive and elastic. On exposure to air it becomes diseased and blackened, and is very sensitive and painful.

Bones are made up of two kinds of matter—animal, which makes the bone tough and elastic, and earthy, which makes it hard and brittle. In young animals the animal matter forms one-half of the substance, which afterwards diminishes to one-third as the animal advances in age. This is why we account for old animals' bones being easier to fracture and harder to mend.

COVERING OF BONE.

Bones are covered by a tough, fibrous, inelastic membrane called periosteum, which can be seen on examining a bone of an animal which has just died. The only exception we have to this is at the joints where one bone articulates with another, and where a tendon or muscle plays over a bone; here we find its place taken by articular cartilage.

CONTENTS OF BONE.

We find in the extremities or near the ends of bones, red marrow, while in the shaft we find white marrow.

CLASSES OF BONE.

Bones are classed as long, flat and irregular. Long bones are found in the extremities or legs, and serve as levers for travelling and pillars to support the body. Always remember, that