

Another instance is mentioned where a fine animal is fed daily with more than a peck of meal. This process was continued for several weeks, when the animal was sold, and it was found that it was only a few pounds heavier than when the fattening first commenced. The bushels of food given it, and the labor of attendance were, therefore, gratuitous.

It has been ascertained by weighing that animals in good condition, with the same amount of food, will increase in flesh faster than those which are lean, when you begin to fatten these. Hence men of experience in the purchase of cattle, avoid buying the lean and raw-boned, if they wish to fatten them.

#### HORSES—DIRECTIONS TO PURCHASERS.



F course every man wishes for a sound horse, without defect in wind, limb, or sight. The various imperfections which occur in each of these are here enumerated:

**THE EYES.**—When the animal about to be purchased is at the stable door, before he is brought out, examine his eyes; the light coming upon them in that situation, will enable you to discover any defect that may exist. Remember that both eyes must be in an equal degree of light; and, regarding this, observe that there is no difference in the eyes, for if they be not alike one must be diseased. If both eyes be clear, and hazel round the pupil, and the pupil itself be blue, and free from any white specks—if it contract in the light and dilate when in the shade, you may conclude the eyes are good. If the eyes be blue round the pupil, or the pupil itself be in the least degree affected with external specks, or deep-seated pearly whiteness, termed contract; if it do not diminish or enlarge, as the light is more or less upon it—in all these cases it is a defective eye. All weeping, cloudy, dull-looking eyes are unsound; and if there be the least appearance in any way of disease in this very important organ, reject the animal. Imperfect vision is often the primary cause of shying.

**THE AGE.**—Next examine the mouth to ascertain the age.

Yearlings and two-year-olds are alike in mouth, and must be judged by general appearance. At three years old the horse has four *horse-teeth*, two above and two below, in front of the mouth, which supply the place of the sucking-teeth. At four he has

eight horse teeth, four above and four below, the corner being only sucking teeth. At five years old, these are gone, and the *mouth is up*, at least with the exception of the inside of the backmost, which, especially in mares, sometimes do not rise until the sixth year; that is, all the teeth are horse-teeth, and the tusk is up on each side of the mouth. A dark mark, or hollow is generally observable in all the teeth of the bottom jaw at five years old; and the tusks are concave in their inner surface. At six, the two middle teeth have quite lost their mark, and the tusk is higher up, and longer, and not so concave. At seven the next two teeth have lost it, and the corner teeth only have the mark left in them. At eight it has grown out of these, and no mark is left at all. The tusks also become longer, and instead of being concave in their inner surface, become convex; the horse is then termed aged. There is, however, a great deal of difference in the mouths; some have lost their mark in all except the corner teeth, even as early as five years old; others have their front teeth in the top jaw projecting over their bottom teeth at the same age. You may form some idea of the age from the appearance of the mouth in general, when the marks are no longer visible. If the corner teeth do not appear long and running forward, as it were, to the front of the mouth; if they retain their square shape, and shut well together; if the tusks are blunt, and have the least concavity on the inner surface, you may conclude that the horse is not very old, particularly if his head be not gray, and not very hollow above the eyes; though this latter shape sometimes exists in young horses. A concave tusk is the most certain criterion of youth; and as mares have no tusk at all, they must be judged by what I have said about the corner teeth, except in some cases of what are called "shell teeth," from their resemblance to the plate-like cakes of shells, and horses with these preserve the appearance of youth till ten or twelve years old.

**THE POSITION.**—When the horse is brought out, allow him to be placed with his fore legs up hill—because if his joints be at all bent over, or his legs shaken, you will best discover it in such a position.

**KNEES.**—As the horse stands, examine his knees, and ascertain that no marks exist in front of them. These marks are generally the symptoms of having been down, and even were they occasioned by other means