

shows the condition of the teeth at 4½ to 5 years old. Here we have what is termed a full mouth; that is, all the permanent nippers are up, and the temporary ones of course are all shed. Changes, too, have taken place in the permanent teeth; which we must examine very closely, as we have no brake to

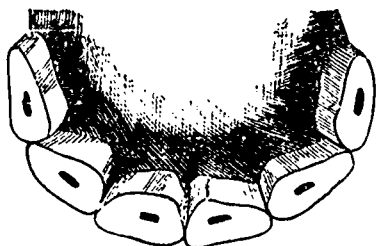


Fig. 9.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 10 years.

stop us now, as we had while the temporary teeth were in their places.

We could then say, "This horse is not 5 years old, or he is not 4 years old, as he shows one or two pairs of temporary teeth." Now we must look entirely to the marks or spots in the middle of the teeth for our guidance.

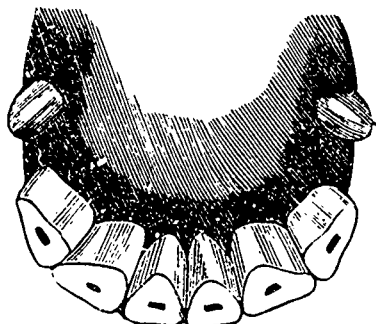


Fig. 10.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 11 years.

Unprincipled dealers, availing themselves of the services of skilled dentists, attempt to imitate this age more than any other perhaps in old horses. The novice in such matters should always be on his guard against such fraud, for to an ordinary observer the teeth prepared as described, very much resemble those of a 5-year-old horse.



Fig. 11.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 12 years.

In the accompanying engraving, Fig. 3, it will be seen that the corner nippers have about the same appearance as the middle pair in Fig. 2, and the central pair in Fig. 1. They have not been up long enough to sustain any appreciable wear, and they have very deep, full marks. The central pair, however, are worn, so that a considerable proportion of the mark has disappeared, leaving only a small black spot;

but it will be noticed that the shape of the tooth has not changed as yet, as it will when the animal grows older.

Instead of the oval shape that the teeth present now, at 9 years and after, they will be more triangular. This appearance is well represented in Fig. 14. The middle nippers at 5 years have considerably changed from the appearance

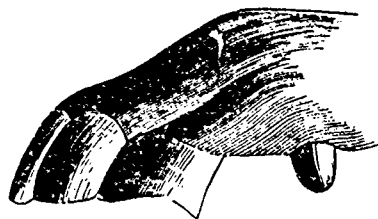


Fig. 12.—Side View of Front and Upper Jaw at 12 Years of Age, Showing the Wear of the Corner Nippers.

of a year previous. The marks are not so large, but still preserve a respectable size and depth.

We find in Fig. 4, which represents a 6-year-old mouth, that the central nippers have lost all their marks except a comparatively small speck. The middle pair have lost much of the mark, as seen at 5 years old in Fig. 3, and they resemble the central pair in that figure. The corner nippers, too, have lost some of their full marks which they had a year previous, but they are still large. At this age, too, the tushes



Fig. 13.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 13 Years

are completely up in the male, but do not show any perceptible wear.

The changes from six to seven years old are not very remarkable. The teeth all show more wear, and the marks are not so plain, of course. The greatest difference is in the corner nippers, where the marks are considerably smaller than at six years, but much larger than in the central or middle pairs.

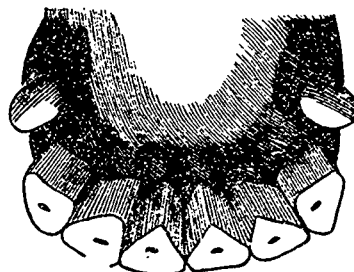


Fig. 14.—Shows the Lower Jaw at 14 Years.

In Fig. 6, which represents the teeth at eight years of age, we see that they show about the same-sized marks; which are all quite small. As yet the teeth remain quite oval in form, but in a short time they become somewhat triangular, especially the central pair of nippers.

In Fig. 7, showing the teeth at nine years old, the marks proper have mostly disappeared, and there remains only a