

tions from the usual standard. Yet they are the only guide that can be safely trusted with any degree of confidence.

Rules for ascertaining the age by an inspection of the teeth are based on a very large number of investigations, and any deviation therefrom will be found rare, and an exception to the general principles laid down in the following pages.



Fig. 3.—Shows the Lower Jaw at 5 years.

CHAPTER II.

The incisors of the lower jaw are the teeth that are generally examined to determine the age of the horse. These are the six teeth situated in the front of the jaw.

The tushes are a partial indication, and might assist the judgment in a doubtful case, but it is very seldom that much

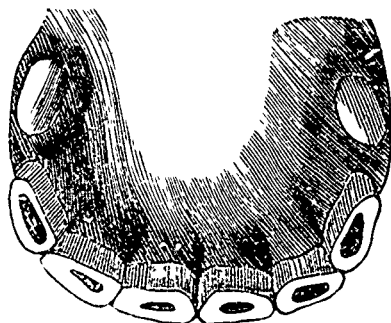


Fig. 4.—Shows the Lower Jaw at 6 years

weight is given to, or in fact much notice taken of the appearance of any of the teeth, except the incisors of the lower jaw.

In this description we shall speak of the six incisors as *nippers*, and the middle pair, or those situated in the middle of the row and at the extreme front (see Fig. 1), A A, will be



Fig. 5.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 7 years.

described as the *central nippers*. The second pair, B B, are the *middle nippers*, and the third pair, C C, are the *corner nippers*. As will be seen, this figure represents the appearance of the nippers in the lower jaw at 2½ years.

The central nippers are just through the gum, and are

therefore the first permanent pair. The middle and corner nippers in this engraving represent the temporary teeth which will remain for a year and two years respectively from this period.



Fig. 6.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 8 years

We must here notice the difference in size between the temporary and permanent teeth. It is seen at a glance that the permanent teeth are very much larger than the temporary. At this age we find one large pair, only recently cut, and two small pairs, one of which will give way to a permanent pair at 3½ years, and the other pair will be replaced by permanent teeth at 4½ to 5 years.

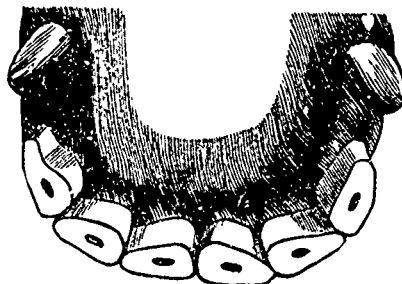


Fig. 7.—Shows a Lower Jaw at 9 years

When we come to about this age we notice (see Fig. 2) that a radical change has taken place. As will be seen, the second pair, or middle temporary nippers, have given way and in their place has appeared the second pair of permanent nippers, which at this age have the same appearance that the central pair did at 2½ years. The central nippers themselves have changed somewhat, and are commencing to show the wear to which they have been subjected since they were cut. We notice that the marks are not so large nor as deep as in Fig. 1. We still have the temporary corner nippers, which.

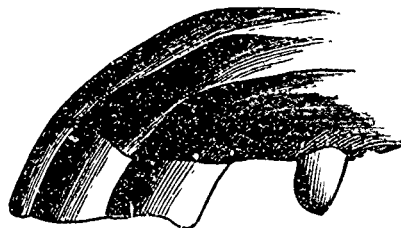


Fig. 8.—Side View of an Upper Jaw at 9 years, showing the Wear in the Corner Nippers

of course, are very much smaller than either of the permanent pairs. However, no mistake need be made, as it will be easily seen that the middle pair have not been cut for any length of time.

The next step in our description brings us to Fig. 3, which