

THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM OF THE HORSE.

We copy the following from the *Plough, Loom and Anvil* :

Fig. 1. The forehead. Few things more clearly indicate the blood of the horse than the forehead. In the blood-horse the forehead is broad and angular, gradually tapering from this point to the muzzle; while in the cart-horse the face is large, and the forehead narrow in comparison with that of the blood-horse.

2. The eye-pit. By the depth of the eye-pit we are enabled to form some idea of the age of the horse: at the posterior part of the eye a considerable quantity of fatty substance is deposited, which enables it to revolve in its orbit with facility and freedom: in old age, and in diseases attended with general loss of condition, much of this fatty substance disappears, the eye becomes sunken, and the pit above the eye deepens. To obviate this appearance, some of the lower class of horse-dealers puncture the skin, and, by means of a quill or tobacco-pipe, blow into the orifice, and thus fill up the depression. This operation is called "puffing the glims," and may be easily detected by the application of pressure.

3. The poll.

4. The muzzle. The muzzle includes the lips, mouth, and nostrils. The darker the color of the muzzle, the more is the horse esteemed. The lips should be thin and firm; in old and sluggish horses they are usually loose and pendulous.

5. The withers. The speed and action of the horse is intimately connected with the length and height of the withers, and such a development is absolutely necessary in the hunter, the hackney, and the farmer's horse; but in the heavy cart-horse this rule may be reversed, as the more bulky and weighty he is before, the more advantageously will his powers be applied.

6. The croup. The croup, which extends from the loins to the setting on of the tail, should be long, and but slightly rounded.

9. The hock.

10. The sheath.

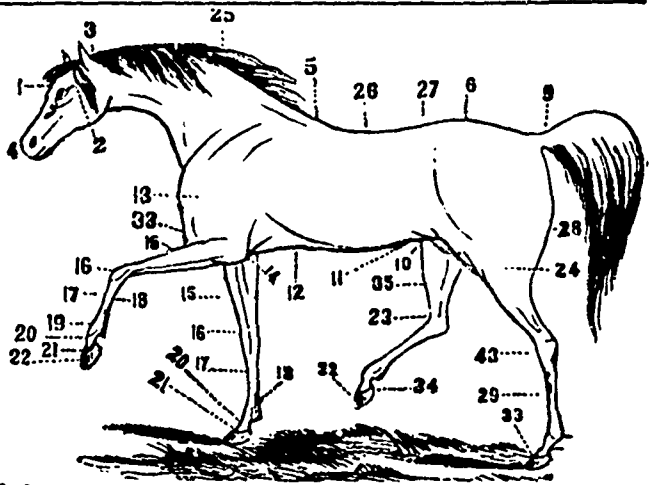
11. The flank. The space contained between the ribs and haunches is called the flank; when too extensive, it is an indication of weakness. The flank is usually referred to as indicating the state of respiration; during fever and chronic diseases of the lungs, it rises and falls with a rapidity greater than under ordinary circumstances.

12. The girth or brisket.

13. The shoulder. A muscular and slanting shoulder is indispensable where action and speed are required; but an upright shoulder may be preferable for horses exclusively destined for the collar.

14. The elbow. Good judges prefer a deep elbow, as it is always connected with increased power of action.

15-15. The arms. It is universally agreed that the arms should be long, large, and muscular; if they are flat on the sides, and narrow in front as they approximate the shoulders, and deficient in muscle, they are radically defective, and the horse should of course be rejected.



16. The knee. The knee should be broad, as offering more space for the attachment of muscles; breadth in this part being an indication of strength.

17-29. The cannon, or shank. The cannon should appear wide when viewed laterally, and thin in front, as any addition besides bone and tendon, must arise from disease, or useless cellular matter.

18. Back sinews. The back sinews should be large, firm, and distinctly felt from the knee to the fetlock. If there be any thickness of cellular matter around them, it indicates previous injury, as a rupture of the ligamentous fibres; and as this thickening may limit the motion of the tendon, and predispose the part to a recurrence of lameness and inflammation, such a horse, although perfectly free from lameness at the time of examination, should be regarded with suspicion, and rejected as unsound.

19-30. The fetlock joint. It is usual to apply the term fetlock to the joint itself; and the space between the fetlock and the foot, the pastern; but, properly speaking, the fetlock, or *footlock*, is only the posterior part of the joint, from whence grows a lock or portion of hair.

20-31. The pasterns. The pasterns should neither be too long nor too short; if too short, they are non-elastic, and such horses are uneasy goers, and unsafe to ride; on the contrary, if they are too long, they are frequently too oblique, and although from their elasticity the motion of the horse may be pleasant to the rider; yet an increased length of limb is an indication of weakness.

21-32. The coffin joint.

22-33. The hoof.

23. The hock. The hock is the most important and complicated joint of the whole animal; like the knee, it should be hard and extended. An enlarged hock constitutes unsoundness.

24. The haunch.

25. The neck. A moderate and elegant curve of the neck adds greatly to the beauty of the horse. The neck is sometimes recurved and hollow; a horse with such a conformation is called *ewe-necked*.

26. The back. The comparative advantage of a long or short back depends entirely on the use for which the horse is intended. For general purposes (says Youatt,) a horse with a short carcass is very properly preferred. He will possess health and strength—for horses of this kind are proverbially strong. He will have sufficient ease not to fatigue