CHAPTER II.

CONSIDERATION OF JOINTS.

THE various structures which enter into the formation of joints are the extremities of bone, ligaments, cartilage, and sometimes we have muscles which help to support the joint. All articular joints are supplied with a synovial membrane, which secretes the synovia or joint oil for lubricating the joint.

Cartilage, or what is familiarly called gristle, are of two kinds, viz.: articular and fibrous. The fibrous is not of much importance and does not need much consideration; it is found in various parts of the body. But the articular cartilage, which covers over the ends of bones where they form a joint, is of more importance.

Ligaments are strong fibrous bands found principally around joints. They are of two kinds, capsular and binding. A capsular ligament is a thin membrane, attached around the end of each bone, which helps to form a joint, and is, as it were, air-tight. The uses of these ligaments are to keep the joint oil from escaping, and partly helps to hold the bone together. On the inside lining of this ligament we find the synovia membrane which secretes the joint oil. Binding ligaments are generally found on each side of of the joint, and are very strong bands of fibrous tissue. The uses of these ligaments are to hold the bones of the joint firmly together.

THE IMPORTANT POINTS OR JOINTS IN THE LEGS.

Shoulder Joint.—This joint is formed by the shoulder blade, or scapula, and humerus or shoulder bone. This is a ball-and-socket joint, and has a strong capsular ligament, and is held to its place also by several large muscles, the most important one being the flexor brachii, which passes down over the shoulder joint through a pulley-like process on the bone, and is held down by a binding ligament which is supplied by a synovial membrane, or sack. This is the seat of what is called shoulder joint lameness. The motion of this joint is outwards or inwards, backwards or forwards.

Elbow Joint is formed by the lower part of the humerus and the upper part of the radius and ulna. It has a capsular ligament and binding ligaments, one on the inside and one on the outside. The action of this joint is just forwards and backwards, or flection and extension, but has no side motion.