

probable that they contributed to it." This was going as far as could be done with any plausibility, in a direction opposite to the opinion usually prevailing, and is considered by Professor Gamgee, the writer of the article under notice, to be about as remote from the truth, as the vulgar prejudices and harsh practices which originated it, as a protest and reaction.

Professor Gamgee having had occasion for many years to import horses from Italy into England, in the former of which countries bot-flies are much more plentiful than in the latter, has had opportunities of observing these two facts—first, that the stomachs of young horses from Italy that have been out at grass in the season of æstrees or bot-fly, are usually lined with bots; and, secondly, that these horses do not thrive for several months, or until a portion at least of this accumulation of bots in the stomach has been removed. Horses in Italy are usually unfit for work until they have been a year or so in the stable, or out of the reach of bot-bees.

From these and similar facts Professor Gamgee has come to the conclusion that summer grazing, at least during the season that bot-flies are abundant, is more likely to be a source of injury than a benefit to horses; that yearling colts are probably often prevented from thriving because they get the eggs of the bot-fly into their stomachs, which thus become filled with bots; and that the attacks of the bot-fly should in every way be guarded against, because bots are very certainly injurious to the health and good condition of horses.

To this we may add that a correspondent, who has had a horse always in good health, for about fourteen years, has informed us that he has taken some pains almost every autumn to pick off by hand such of the eggs of the bot as could not be removed by currying, and that he thinks the good condition of his horse, even at the age of about eighteen, is very probably somewhat owing to this carefulness in diminishing the number of bot-eggs. He has further informed us that he usually succeeds in bringing away bots from other horses, by means of feeding them with green cornstalks, while by the same means but very few seem ever to be removed from the horse which is more particularly cared for as above stated.—*Country Gentleman*.

**HOW TO KNOW THE AGE OF A HORSE.**—The colt is born with twelve grinders. — When four front teeth have made their appearance, the colt is twelve days old; and when the next four comes forth, it is four weeks old. When the corner teeth appear, the colt is eight months, and when the latter have attained to the height of the front teeth, it is one year old. The two year old colt has the kernel (the dark substance in the middle of the tooth's crown) ground out of all the front teeth. In the third year the middle front teeth are being shifted; and when three years old these are substituted by the horse teeth. The next four teeth are shifted in the fourth year, and the corner teeth in the fifth. At six years the kernel is worn out of the lower middle front teeth, and the bridle teeth have now attained to their full growth. At seven years a hook has been formed on the corner teeth of the upper jaw; the kernel of the teeth next to the middle fronts is worn out, and the bridle teeth begins to wear off. At eight years of age the kernel is worn out of all the lower front teeth, and begins to decrease in the middle upper fronts. In the ninth year the kernel has wholly disappeared from the upper middle front teeth, the hook on the corner teeth has increased in size, and the bridle teeth lose their points. In the tenth year the kernel is worn out of the teeth next to the middle fronts of the Upper jaw; and in the eleventh year the kernel has entirely vanished from the corner teeth of the same jaw. At twelve years old the crown of all the front teeth in the lower jaw has become triangular, and the bridle teeth are much worn down. As the horse advances in age the gums shrink away from the teeth, which, consequently, receive a long narrow appearance, and their kernels have become metamorphosed into a darkish point, grey hairs increased in the forehead, over the eyes, and the chin assumes the form of an angle.—*Practical Farmer*.

**DRAINING MATCH.**—On the 28th December an important agricultural Draining-Match took place on the Duke of Sutherland's estate at Trentham, Staffordshire.—Three premiums were offered of £5, £3, and £2, respectively, for digging drains; the prizes to be awarded to the three workmen who should cut forty-eight yards of draining four feet deep, in the most workmanlike manner, with the least unnecessary excavation