

of its parts. The horse, a native of extensive plains and steppes, has a structure admirably suited to these his natural pasture grounds. When brought, however, into subjection, and running on our hard roads, his feet suffer from concussion. The value of the horse, so often impaired by lameness of the foot, has made this part an object of great interest; and I have it from the excellent professor of veterinary surgery to say that he has never demonstrated the anatomy of the horse's foot without finding something new to admire.

The weight and power of the animal require that he should have a foot in which strength and elasticity are combined. The first thing that attracts attention is the position of the bones. Had they been placed the one directly over the other, there could have been no elasticity; but on the contrary they are placed obliquely over each other, and a strong elastic ligament runs along behind them, terminating by an attachment to the lowest or coffin bone.* So essential is the obliquity of the bones

* The convexity of the bone, the elastic ligament, and the tendons behind the cannon bone, can be distinguished by the eye, and by the hand, and constitute one of the "points" of a horse; because there is so perfect a correspondence between the strength of an animal's bones, tendons, and muscles, that in those sinews the jockey sees the perfection, or the defect of the whole.