

starve in a grass field ; for by breeding and crossing they contrive, in a manner one would almost say artificially, to combine the incidental defects of nature, so as to make the proportions of the animal correspond with their ideas of perfection ; for they have got a notion that a short neck and a small head are excellencies, as diminishing the weight upon the fore feet. They observe that the splints, corns, sand-cracks, whitters, inflammations, and other diseases of the horse's foot, are almost exclusively found in the anterior extremity, and they attribute these to the weight of the head and neck in conjunction with the artificial condition of the horse. Were it the shoeing and the hard roads, the effect would be equally perceptible on the hind feet. Such considerations tend to show the importance of the peculiarity now to be pointed out in the horse's skull.

On looking to the horse's head in profile, we see that its peculiar form, and especially the great depth of jaws, posteriorly, is a necessary consequence of the length of the grinding teeth. We have already noticed the magnitude and weight of the elephant's head, corresponding with the enormous teeth, formed for attrition. If we apply the same rule to the head of the horse, we shall see how curiously it accounts for the peculiar shape of its skull. Like the elephant, it is graminivorous ; and the structure of