

than large horses ; that care is as necessary for them as food ; that familiarity and caresses will do more with them than force and chastisement ; that the horses of warm countries have their bones, hoofs, and muscles, more firm than those of our climates ; that although heat agrees better than cold with these animals, yet excessive heat does not agree with them ; and lastly, that their habit and disposition depend almost entirely on the climate, food, care, and education.

In Persia, Arabia, and many other parts of the east, it is not customary to geld horses, although so general a practice in Europe and China. This operation deprives them of much of their strength, courage, and fire, but renders them gentle, quiet, and docile. The only seasons for performing this operation are spring or autumn, great heat and cold being equally hurtful. With respect to age, they have different customs in different countries ; in some parts of France they geld horses at twelve or fifteen months old ; but the general and best custom is, not to geld them till two or three years, because, in not doing it till that age, they preserve more of their masculine qualities. Pliny says, that they never lose the milk-teeth if they are made geldings before they have shed

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them.