

(x,) which is chiefly made up of a tissue of blood vessels, for supplying nourishment to the eye. It has on its inner surface a layer of a dark coloured viscid secretion, known by the name of the *Pigmentum nigrum*, or black pigment. Its use is to absorb all the light which may happen to be irregularly scattered through the eye, in consequence of reflection from different quarters; and it serves, therefore, the same purpose as the black paint with which the inside of optical instruments, such as telescopes, microscopes, and camerae obscuræ, is darkened. Within the pigmentum nigrum, and almost in immediate contact with it,* the *Retina* (r) is expanded, forming an exceedingly thin and delicate layer of nervous matter, supported by a fine membrane.

More than three-fourths of the globe of the eye are filled with the *vitreous humour* (v,) which has the appearance of a pellucid and elastic jelly, contained in an exceedingly delicate texture of cellular substance. The *Crystalline humour*, (L,) which has the shape of a double convex lens, is formed of a denser material than any of the other humours, and occupies the fore part of the globe of the eye, immediately in front of the vitreous humour, which is there hollowed to receive it. The space which intervenes between the lens and the cornea is filled with a watery secretion (A,) called the *Aqueous humour*. This space is divided into an anterior and a posterior chamber by a flat circular partition (I,) termed the *Iris*.

The iris has a central perforation (P,) called the *Pupil*, and it is fixed to the edge of the choroid coat, by a white elastic ring (Q,) called the *Ciliary Ligament*. The posterior surface of the iris is called the *Uvea*, and is lined with a dark brown pigment. The structure of the iris is very peculiar, being composed of two layers of contractile fibres; the one, forming concentric circles; the other, disposed like radii between the outer and inner margin.† When the

* Between the pigmentum and the retina there is found a very fine membrane, discovered by Dr. Jacobson: its use has not been ascertained.

† See Fig. 47, vol. i. p. 105.