

the skin constituting the outer eye-lid. This animal has the power of turning each eye, independently of the other, in a great variety of directions.

The eyes of Tortoises exhibit an approach to those of birds: they are furnished with large lacrymal glands, and with a very moveable *membrana nictitans* or third eye-lid.

Birds present a still farther development of all these parts: their eyes are of great size compared with the head, as may be seen from the large portion of the skull which is occupied on each side by the orbits. The chief peculiarities of the internal structure of these organs are apparently designed to accommodate them to vision through a very rare medium, and to procure their ready adjustment to objects situated at very different distances. The form of the eye appears calculated to serve both these purposes; for the great prominence of its anterior portion, which has often the shape of a short cone, or cylinder, prefixed to the front of a hemispherical globe, and which is terminated by a very convex cornea, affords space for a larger quantity of aqueous humour, and also for the removal of the lens to a greater distance from the retina; whereby the vision of near objects is facilitated, while at the same time the refracting powers are susceptible of great variation.

For the purpose of preserving the hemispherical form of the sclerotica, this membrane in birds is strengthened by a circle of bony plates, which occupy the fore-part, and are lodged between the two layers of which it consists. These plates vary in number from fifteen to twenty, and they lie close together, their edges successively overlapping each other. There is manifest design in this arrangement; for it is clear that a ring formed of a number of separate plates is better fitted to resist fracture than an entire bony circle of the same thickness.

There is a dark-coloured membrane, called the *Marsupium*, situated in the vitreous humour, the use of which is unknown, though it appears to be of some importance, as it