is found in almost every bird having extensive powers of vision.* The comparative anatomy of the eye offers, indeed, a great number of special structures of which we do not understand the design, and which I have therefore purposely omitted to notice, as being foreign to the object of this treatise.

In most birds the membrana nictitans, or third eye-lid, is of considerable size, and consists of a semi-transparent fold of the conjunctiva, lying, when not used, in the inner corner of the eye, with its loose edge nearly vertical: it is represented at N, Fig. 434, covering half the surface of the .eye: its motion, like that of a curtain, is horizontal, and is effected by two muscles: the first of which, seen at q, in Fig. 435, is called, from its shape, the quadratus, and arises from the upper and back part of the sclerotica: its fibres descending in a parallel course towards the optic nerve, where



they terminate, by a semicircular edge, in a tubular tendon. This tendon has no particular attachment, but is employed for the purpose of serving as a loop for the passage of the long tendon of the second muscle (r,) which is called the *pyramidalis*, and which arises from the lower and back part

* It is shown at M, Fig. 433, which is a magnified section of the eye of a Goose. c is the cornea; J, the iris; r, the ciliary processes, s, the sclerotic coat, and o, the optic nerve.