

of the sclerotica, its tendon ( $\tau$ ) after passing through the channel above described, which has the effect of a pulley, is conducted through a circular sheath, furnished by the sclerotica to the under part of the eye, and is inserted into the lower portion of the loose edge of the nictitating membrane. By the united action of these two muscles, the former of which serves merely to guide the tendon of the latter, and increase the velocity of its action, the membrane is rapidly drawn over the front of the globe. Its return to its former position is effected simply by its own elasticity, which is sufficient to bring it back to the inner corner of the eye. If the membrane itself had been furnished with muscular fibres for effecting this motion, they would have interfered with its use by obstructing the transmission of light.

The eyes of quadrupeds agree in their general structure with those of man. In almost all the inferior tribes they are placed laterally in the head, each having independent fields of vision, and the two together commanding an extensive portion of the whole sphere. This is the case very generally among fishes, reptiles, and birds. Some exceptions, indeed, occur in particular tribes of the first of these classes, as in the *Uranoscopus*, where the eyes are directed immediately upwards; in the *Ray* and the *Callionymus*, where their direction is oblique; and in the *Pleuronectes*, where there is a remarkable want of symmetry between the right and left sides of the body, and where both eyes, as well as the mouth, are apparently situated on one side. Among birds, it is only in the tribe of Owls, which are nocturnal and predaceous, that we find both eyes placed in front of the head. In the lower quadrupeds, the eyes are situated laterally, so that the optic axes form a very obtuse angle with each other. As we ascend towards the quadrumana we find this angle becoming smaller, till at length the approximation of the fields of view of the two eyes is such as to admit of their being both directed to the same object at the same time. In the human species the axes of the two orbits approach nearer to