

ing denser and more convex than usual, the cornea thin and yielding, and both the anterior and posterior segments of the sclerotic thick and firm; but the middle circle is very thin and flexible, admitting of the ready separation or approximating of the other portions, so as to elongate or contract the axis of the eye; just as a telescope can be drawn out or shortened, in order to adapt it to the distance of the object to be viewed. The whole eye-ball is surrounded by strong muscles which are capable of effecting these requisite changes of distance between the cornea and the retina. The *Dolphin*, which lives more constantly in the water, has an eye still more nearly approaching in its structure to that of fishes; the crystalline lens being nearly spherical, and the globe of the eye furnished with strong and numerous muscles. In birds which frequently plunge their heads under water the crystalline lens is more convex than in other tribes; and the same is true, also, of aquatic reptiles.