

through the eye, from before backwards, and will give an idea of the relative position of these different parts.

72. The outer coat is called the *sclerotic*, (*b*;) it is a thick, firm, white membrane, having its anterior portion transparent. This transparent segment, which seems set in the opaque portion, like a watch-glass in its rim, is called the *cornea*, (*f*.)

73. The inside of the sclerotic is lined by a thin, dark-colored membrane, the *choroid*, (*c*.) It becomes detached from the sclerotic when it reaches the edge of the cornea, and forms a curtain behind it. This curtain gives to the eye its peculiar color, and is called the *iris*, (*g*.) The iris readily contracts and dilates, so as to enlarge or diminish an opening at its centre, the *pupil*, according as more or less light is desired. Sometimes the pupil is circular, as in man, the dog, the monkey; sometimes in the form of a vertical ellipse, as in the cat; or it is elongated sidewise, as in the sheep.

74. The third membrane is the *retina*, (*d*.) It is formed by the optic nerve, which enters the back part of the eye, by an opening through both the sclerotic and choroid coats, and expands upon the interior into a whitish and most delicate membrane. It is upon the retina that the images of objects are received, and produce impressions, which are conveyed by the nerve to the brain.

75. The fluids which occupy the cavity of the eye are of different densities. Behind, and directly opposite to the pupil, is placed a spheroidal body, called the *crystalline lens*, (*e*.) It is tolerably firm, perfectly transparent, and composed of layers of unequal density, the interior being always more compact than the exterior. Its form varies in different classes of animals. In general, it is more convex in aquatic than in land animals; whilst with the cornea it is directly the contrary, being flat in the former, and convex in the latter.

76. By means of the iris, the cavity, (*i*,) in front of the crys-