

organs. It is to this latter division of the subject that I shall chiefly address myself, while taking the opportunity thus kindly afforded me of putting on record certain visual phenomena which I have from time to time noticed, belonging to that obscure class of impressions which may be termed Sensorial Vision—by which I mean visual sensations or impressions bearing a certain considerable resemblance to those of natural or *retinal* vision, but which differ from these in the very marked particular of arising when the eyes are closed and in complete darkness.

(2.) Few persons, I suppose, are ignorant, as a matter of personal experience, of the sort of appearances known by the name of Ocular Spectra, which are produced by the impression of a strong light on the retina of the eye, and which continue to force themselves on the attention, sometimes in a very pertinacious and disagreeable way for some time afterwards, when the eyes are closed. In one lamentable instance, that of an eminent Belgian Philosopher, they have caused actual loss of sight; and in that of Sir Isaac Newton, their obstinate recurrence is said to have deprived him of sleep for several days and nights successively, and to have driven him to the verge of distraction. These are cases when the stimulus of light has been pushed to the extreme; but when moderate and regulated, these spectra admit of being studied: and the laws of their production—the singular and beautiful phases they pass through—their periodical extinction and renewal (which extend over a very considerable interval of time from their first production), the orderly