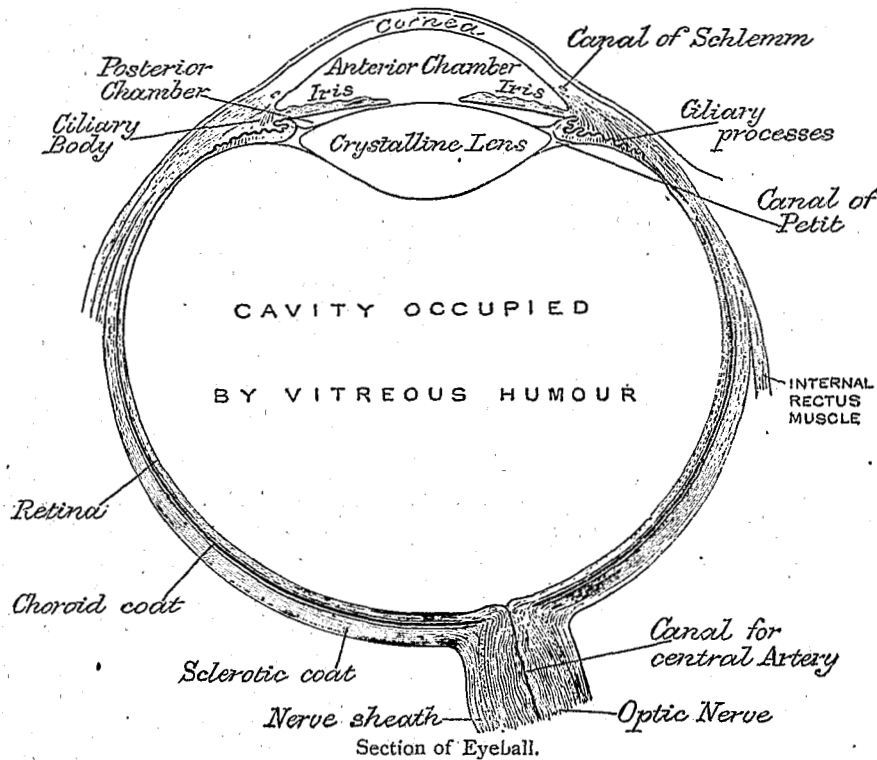


covering the globe, has taken on the nature of a mucous membrane.

The skin of the lids is thin and delicate, covered by downy hair, and has a loose subcutaneous tissue underlying it which is almost entirely free from fat. At the lid margins the skin joins the mucous membrane or conjunctiva. The lid margins are cut obliquely so that the edge of the upper lid laps over the lower and thus better apposition is secured and greater protection to the contained globe. Under the skin lies a circular muscle, surrounding the opening between the lids, the orbicularis palpebrarum, which screws the eyes up; this is attached at the inner and outer angle of the eye to a tendinous cord, the inner being the stronger, which goes to the bone in the neighbourhood.

lies immediately in front of the tarsal cartilage and behind the eyelashes. This "grey line" shows the position of the cellular interval between the orbicularis and the tarsal plate, and is of importance as marking the plane in which incisions are generally made in operation on the lid-margin. In the depth of the tarsal plate, nearer its conjunctival surface, are buried a number of "Meibomian" glands. The conjunctiva is closely adherent to the posterior surface of the tarsal plate, but at its upper margin becomes free and forms a number of loose folds from which it is eventually reflected on to the eyeball. The upper "cartilage" is much thicker and larger than the lower, which is almost a negligible quantity in many lids.

The folds of mucous membrane at the point of



Deep to the orbicularis, in both lids lies the skeleton of the lid, the so-called tarsal plate or cartilage. This is a misnomer, as it is not true cartilage but merely dense fibrous material. Thickest at the lid margin, it thins as it passes towards the periphery of the lid, and eventually is reduced to a fascia, which is adherent all round the opening of the orbit, and to the inner and outer tendinous bands of the orbicularis. This orbital fascia, as it is called, separates the contents of the orbit from the superjacent connective tissues, and thus forms a bar which prevents cellulitis spreading back from the skin to the orbit. At the margin of the lid the position of the tarsal plate is shown by a thin grey line, which

junction of the palpebral and ocular conjunctiva are called the fornices conjunctivae. Underlying the fornices are many small masses of lymphoid tissue. At the inner canthus may be seen a small rounded elevation, the caruncle, lying behind and between the two lids, and just external to this is a small semilunar fold of conjunctiva, the plica semilunaris; this represents the nictitating membrane or third eyelid of many animals. It is functionless in man, but forms a small pouch in which foreign bodies may lodge.

The upper lid usually moves with the globe and maintains a fairly regular height, covering the cornea about as far as the upper edge of the pupil. The elevation of the lid depends chiefly

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