

of the substance of the lens is an occurrence so incomprehensible, that it has never been conjectured to occur, and is consequently not mentioned by authors. I can well understand, in the shock of the fall, that tearing of the capsule of the lens might occur; it would, indeed, be very likely to happen, as the capsule of the lens is described as transparent, highly elastic, and brittle. The peculiarity of this membrane is that, when ruptured, the edges roll up, with the outer surface innermost, so that if, as is described, there had been rupture of the anterior capsule, consequent on the shock of the fall, I cannot see how the lens did not slip out. I should think any force sufficient to tear the capsule of the lens would be quite sufficient to rupture the suspensory ligament of the lens itself. How the substance of the lens became cracked and split up like a cheval glass is still more difficult of comprehension, unless Probst and the two dogs had lenses of peculiar construction for the occasion; because anatomists describe the lens as consisting of concentric layers, of which the external, in the fresh state, are soft, resembling somewhat gelatine or paste. Furthermore, the concentric layers are capable of demonstration only by boiling the lens in water, or steeping it in alcohol.

These reflections were made at the time I read Dr. Dyer's paper. I have since had an opportunity of examining the eyes of the criminal Mack, who suffered death on the 23rd instant. In this case the length of the drop was six feet; and, on *post mortem* examination, it was found that the second cervical vertebræ was torn away from its attachment to the third, the medulla was torn across, and the os hyoides with tongue severed from its attachment to the thyroid cartilage: there was general congestion of all the viscera.

Through the kindness of the gaol physician, Dr. Beaubien, I procured both eyes, and examined them carefully with the ophthalmoscope, and subsequently anatomically. Nothing abnormal existed; the corneæ were not as transparent as during life, a peculiarity which is noticed as a cadaveric effect. The lens was perfectly normal, and its capsule intact. The left eye was more congested than the right (the knot was on the right side), and there was, on its outer side, rupture of a blood-vessel, with effusion of a small clot, situated between the sclerotic and choroid coats, and close to the attachment of the margin of the iris.

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