

CHAPTER XIV.

THE EYE.

THE eye is the chief organ of sight, and is situated in the orbital fossa, which was mentioned in the bones of the head. It is chiefly made up of several coats around the outside and in the centre, by the humours of the eye. On the inner side of the coats is a thin membrane called the retina, which contains the branches of the optic nerve, this receives the reflections of objects as they pass through the humours of the eye and they pass along the optic nerve to the brain. The oblong openings seen in the middle of the eye are known as the pupils of the eye. In leading a horse out of a dark stable into the light and watching the pupils of the eye, they will be noticed to get smaller, then on returning it to the stable the pupils will be noticed to dilate or get larger, thus it is seen the pupil does not always remain the same size. The chief use of the pupil is to gauge the sight. At the back part of the eye are several muscles which are attached from around the eye to the bones in the fossa, the use of these muscles are to move the eye and assist in holding it to its place. Around the front part of the eye are two movable curtains, one above and the other below, these are called the eyelids, the use of which are to open and close the eye, and also to protect it from injuries. Around the free border of the eyelids are what is known as the eyelashes, the use of which are to keep foreign substances from falling into the eye. Situated in the inner angle of the eye is what is known as the haw of the eye, this membrane also helps to protect the eye. In the corner of this angle is a small duct or opening, where the tears of the eye pass down through into the nasal tubes, where it is carried down through the bones of the head and emptied into the under part of the nostril or nose. A small gland is situated on the upper part of the eye, secreting the tears which lubricate the eye. The color of the eye is generally brown, but in some cases it is white and receives the name of a walled eye.