

retinas. For this purpose the eyeballs are provided with six muscles: four straight, two oblique ones. By means of the latter the eyes are rotated—by the *superior oblique* inward and upward, by the *inferior oblique* outward and downward. The straight or recti muscles have a less complicated effect upon the eyeball.

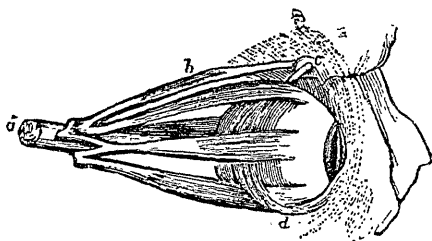


FIG. 9.

MUSCLES OF THE EYEBALL.—*a*, optic nerve ; *b*, superior oblique muscle with its pulley, *c* ; *d*, inferior oblique. The other four are the recti.

The superior recti draw the front of the eye up ; the inferior oblique draw it down. Acting alone, each external rectus draws the eye out and each internal rectus draws it in toward the nose. Acting together, both recti cause the eyes to *converge*—as when looking at a near object—while the externi again direct the eyes toward the distance. It is evident that all these muscles should be in equilibrium ; that none should be stronger than and tyrannize over the others. That, however, sometimes happens, and is not an uncommon trouble with persons suffering from “weak eyes.”

In conclusion, it is remarkable how few persons have their eyes placed in symmetrical sockets. Look at your opposite neighbors in a street car, and you will almost certainly see at least one whose left eye is placed higher or lower in his face than the right ! This, of course, makes it difficult for images to be accurately focused on corresponding retinal points, and is often a source of ocular weakness.

(To be continued.)