recurrence of the colours they assume, which are peculiarly rich and various—the singular effects of gentle pressure on the eye, and partial light admitted through the eyelids in modifying them or in renewing them when extinct—all these offer a subject of much attraction and interest. A very interesting memoir on them has been, within these few years, communicated to the Royal Society, by Dr Scoresby; but the subject is far from being exhausted, and it is to the habit of attention to such sensorial impressions, fostered by frequently watching the development of these spectra under a variety of circumstances in my own case, that I attribute my having been led to notice that other class of phænomena of which I shall presently speak, and which from their inconspicuousness, I suppose, escape the notice of most people.

(3.) The production of Ocular Spectra refers itself, I presume, to what I have described as the purely physical branch of the general subject of vision. Their seat, it can hardly be doubted, is the retina itself,* and their production is in all probability, part and parcel of that photographic process by which light chemically affects the retinal structure, and of the gradual restoration of that structure to its normal state of sensitiveness by the fading out of the picture impressed. Cases are not wanting in artificial photography where an impression made

* In speaking of the retina, I would not be understood to express any opinion on the disputed question whether the *retina* anatomically so called or the choroid coat of the eye be really the seat of vision.