

DIFFICULTIES MAY EXCITE UNDUE ALARM.

Let it be supposed that geologists are correct as to the antiquity of our planet, and also, for the sake of argument, that no mode could be discovered of reconciling their conclusions with revelation, it would not follow that a satisfactory solution might not hereafter be suggested. A difficulty is not always a confutation. Geology has its own difficulties. It tells us, for example, that nodules of flint are scattered at pretty equal intervals through beds of chalk; but it does not account for this mode of distribution. 'The separation of the flint into layers, so distinct from the chalk, is a singular phenomenon, and not yet accounted for.'* Apart from the laminæ of stratification, we are pointed by the geologist to joints and cleavage in many rocks, but he is incompetent to inform us how they came there. 'Whatever nomenclature we adopt,' says Sir C. Lyell, 'it is clear that three distinct forms of structure are exhibited in certain rocks throughout large districts: viz.—first, stratifica-

* Lyell's Elem. of Geol., part ii., chap. 15.