

proper food and temperature by the way?*

Difficulties multiply upon us the longer we consider the subject. Many plants would be destroyed by a marine deluge, as certainly as animals, and would equally require to be sheltered from the salt water.

It is true that all these obstructions could have been removed by miracles. A miracle could have brought the animals together, and afterwards restored them to their respective domains. A miracle could have reduced their dimensions, and made them small enough to be

* If anything more were required to show the partial location of birds, the galapagos archipelago might be mentioned: of 26 specimens shot by Mr. Darwin, 25 were peculiar, though bearing a strong resemblance to American types; some birds were even confined to particular islands; and the gulls, one of the most widely-dispersed families, are peculiar. But on this comparatively recent volcanic group, only 500 miles distant from the coast of America, everything is peculiar, birds, plants, reptiles, and fish, and though under the equator, all have sober covering. . . . The distribution of animals is guided by laws analogous to those which regulate the distribution of plants, insects, fishes, and birds. Each continent, and even different parts of the same continent, are centres of zoological families, which have always existed there, and nowhere else; each group being almost always specifically different from all others.—*Physical Geography*, by *Mary Somerville*, vol. ii., pp. 210, 218. These are most instructive volumes, and they are admirably adapted to the general reader.