THE ORBITAL PATH OF THE EARTH.

In taking leave of this particular subject for the present, we will call attention to an apparent difficulty in the explanation now put before the reader; the difficulty is one undoubtedly requiring close attention and careful consideration, and is of such a kind that when for the first time apprehended, and looked at from one point of view only, it may appear to be almost fatal to the correctness and truth of the (theory) explanation. Referring to Fig. 8. The earth E., is, according to the explanation, ascending from n. in the direction n.r.m.; having passed r. it continues to ascend with a velocity of nearly 'hree million miles in a week. Why does the ascending motion cease on arriving at m.? Since the earth is (nearly) spherical, and the direction of the attractive force is at an angle with the direction of motion, approaching to a right angle; why does not the earth continue to move on, in the same direction, in a vertical orbit of revolution ? Or, by combining this motion with that of the horizontal orbit, move in an oblique path around the sun? Having stated the difficulty, we will in the first place observe that the presently accepted teaching of the inclined axis and inclined planes exhibits a difficulty of the same kind; and which, although not perhaps so apparently startling for the moment, will be found on close

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