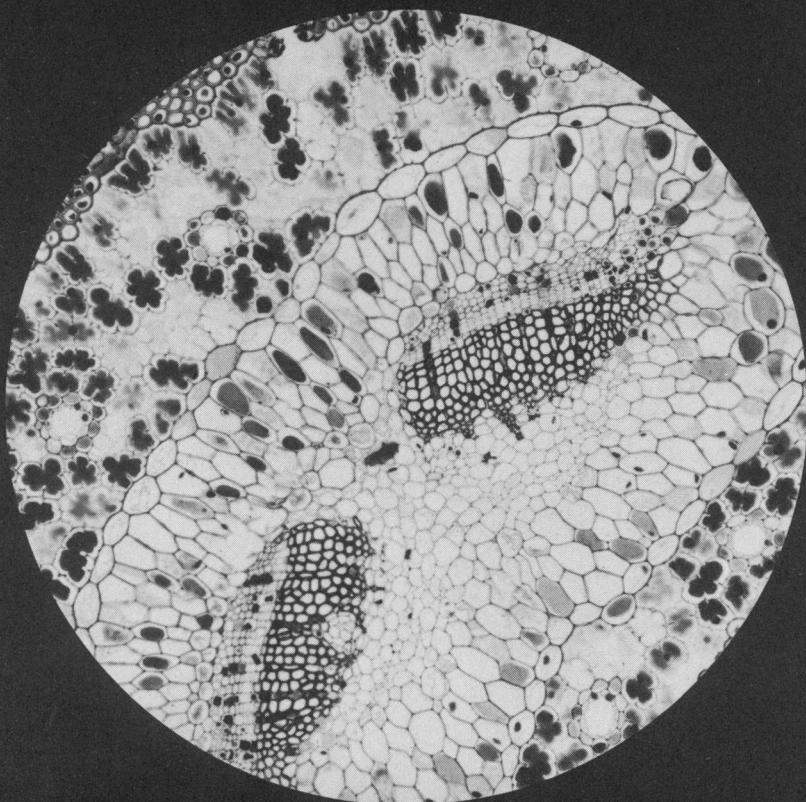


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valuable than these structured and sometimes stilted postludes. This volume serves as an introduction to two more planned symposia in the hope of further synthesis. Both additional symposia should have been held by now and the published results, it is hoped, will appear in less than two years. From perusal of some of the essays in the current volume, one might conclude that a theoretical biologist is a man who calls an introduction a prolegomena. It will be interesting to know whether this volume presages the founding of a discipline of theoretical biology or simply serves as a base from which to produce further volumes of disjoint, unsynthesized essays.

William V. Mayer
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THE SUBVERSIVE SCIENCE, Paul Shepard and Daniel McKinley, Eds., 453 pp., \$5.95, Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, 1969.

The subtitle is significant, *Essays Toward An Ecology of Man*, for it indicates the book to be about human ecology, a collection of essays reprinted from various sources, and importantly, an effort toward defining the subject. The editors early disclaim any success in defining human ecology, and thus this book only helps in that effort by indicating how wide the parameters are and how diverse are its potential emphases.

The reprinted essays are grouped under: 1) Men As Populations, 2) The Environmental Encounter, 3) Men and Other Organisms, 4) Men in Ecosystems, and 5) Ethos, Ecos, and Ethics. These are listed to show the vagueness and amorphous quality of the topic at hand.

The authors of the essays are top-notch and their publication sources range from books, *Science*, to some very obscure publications. Illustrations are included. There is no index but there are bibliographies.

This is an interesting book but one leaving the reader disquieted and uneasy. The subject matter is familiar to biologists, but the organization, or lack of it, will leave a systematically oriented teacher struggling to find a pattern. Unfortunately, the editor's comments do not help, but the editors have done a splendid job of selection.

THEORIES ON THE NATURE OF LIFE, Giovanni Blandino, S. J., 374 pp., \$6.00, Philosophical Library, Inc., New York, 1969.

The problem of the nature of life is a basic problem of philosophy as well as science. Several centuries of thought into this nature have been telescoped into a few pages by the author of this book.

The aim of this book is mainly