The concepts of ecology have as yet found little direct utilization in medicine. Ecology would subsume a development of natural history. It is the study of the relation of the organism to its organic as well as its inorganic environment, particularly its friendly or hostile relations to those animals or plants with which it comes in contact. Haeckel spoke of ecology as the "general economy of the household of nature". Physicians have dealt with isolated aspects of it as "adaptation" of man to his environment. This "wholeness" reaction type is emphasized in this essay. The amateur naturalist notes many examples of habitat adaptations. The ecology of lime stone floras, deep sea plankton, sand dune insects, high mountain faunas, all exemplify these habits of friendly and unfriendly environmental factors and how living matter may utilize this or that to its advantage. Cardiac and renal hypertrophies, adenomatous trends in hypersecreting incretory structures and innumerable plus and minus activities adapt well or ill to friendly or hostile forces. It would unravel complicated correlations, of the type of Darwin's old maid and honey story. It states that a complete philosophy of disease demands consideration of the physico-chemical, sensori-motor and symbolic environment and a just quantitative appraisal of the respective energy quanta represented in each without prejudice to the others. Thus as fever may represent an asset in adaptation to a noxious force, so may delusional thinking operate as an eco-logically determined adaptation, or an over acting thyroid attempt to offset a symbolic hostile environmental possibility. These are but a few of an innumerable series of interrelated compensatory adaptive reactions in the human body which are capable of true understanding only when all of the facts are collected. An historial apergu is offered to show how Democritus grasped certain features of this conception in his "hysteria" conception. Socrates in Charmides is quoted and the Socratic "soul" is equated with "the total situation". The interpretation of Socrates' incantations is revised — as the "search for truth" — "beautiful reasons", as Socrates himself puts it. Total truth
is the ecological formula, so difficult of attainment. Impossible from the standpoint of pure theory — pragmatically one does the best one can.

An illustration of smasmophilic phenomena is offered. A physico-chemical calcium defeci'tis shown; the physiological link in the chain, hyperventilation in talking, by getting every word out of each breath is also in evidence, but the ecological principle demands more, namely the why of the breathing. Here the most difficult symbolic interpretations intrude and only with the Freudian conceptions has any answer even been possible. With these however the "entire situation demand" approaches fulfillment. The individual patient offered as an illustration follows an early oral-anal patterning in his talking and other activities. He is "trying hard" as in the nursery. Thus the discussions sharpens down to the neglected features in the interpretation of many maladaptive bodily activities which involve the higher symbolic, the next, the physiological and finally the physico-chemical levels, where reversible or irreversible changes take place and predicate benign or malignant disease in any or all organs of the body, the accent falling upon certain systems, in accordance with the economy principle of adaptive activity. Behavior patterns cut their way into anatomical patterns beyond recall.

The herd instinct, or the desire to remain in the group, is an important aspect of social ecological action. Like the Spartan youth that permitted the fox to gnaw his entrails, an heroic attitude towards antisocial cravings may bring about suicide of organs, i. e., by the process of conversion of friendly or hostile energy. Thus benign conversions are equated with the hysterical reaction types that mimic any or all diseases. The malignant conversions and/or substitutions (repetition compulsion neurotic type) may bring about tissue changes, which up to 40 years are reversible (organ neuroses in current terminology). When behavior pattern overwhelms structural pattern, so-called organic disease is effectuated. These conceptions are carried into the skin system, as seen in eczema and psoriasis as paradigms. Current dermatological conceptions are granted up to the symbolic level, which, apart from a few psychoanalytically trained dermatologists, means nothing. Thus why eczema is preeminently wet and on flexor surfaces and psoriasis dry and on extensor surfaces has no significance in orthodox dermatology. The ecological principle equates the one with the love impulse, the other with the death wish; the hostile forces of striking. It demands an insight into individual unconscious cravings that the respective surfaces may bring about clasping and being clasped, striking and being struck, etc., etc., before a final appraisal is possible. The ecological principle demands recognition of unconscious symbolism as a part of the picture. How much ?, this is a question of fact gathering by the new psychoanalytic methodology. The principle is then applied to the disturbances of the gastrointestinal tract, from nausea to...
carcinoma. To the respiratory tract, especially to the problem of tuberculosis — where "aspiration" as a symbolic type of sublimation, is of as much importance as respiration. Why does the lung, the author asks, become a favorable habitat for the fungus in only 1 of a 100 per cent distributed parasite? The paper emphasizes the fact that the "personality of the lung" is of as much if not more importance to study than that of the necessary tubercle bacillus and that any program of research that omits the symbolic or psychological is stupid.

T. The cardiovascular system shows similar problems particularly in the relation of hostility to vascular tension.

Blood pressures excessively high or low are related to sadistic and masochistic loads and need their interpretations ecologically in terms of total situations. The muscles tendon joint trilogy is of special significance in view of present day futilities in managing the osteoarthritides. Here pulling beating tensions of hostile sadistic forces which follow the heroic Spartan method lock their adherents in wheel chairs when unduly loaded — or when unduly released by the gangster methods achieve the penitentiary. How to teach "moderation" "balance" (Author's abstract.) and "harmony" in adaptive action — the ecological principle suggests the equating of the ideological environment as of prime importance. The psycho-; analytic methodology has its difficulties as it emphasizes the significance of rationalization as "window dressing" and the need for study of unconscious mechanics for a full statement of life's calculus of convergent