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Cross section of pine wood (about \( \times 5.5 \)). A column of water supported only by atmospheric pressure can be only 10.3 meters high. Since trees grow higher than this, the ascent of sap in the xylem must be due to another mechanism. Tension has been assumed to be the mechanism, but a new theory is proposed. See page 1129. [From Patterns of Life: The Unseen World of Plants; copyright © 1966 by William M. Harlow; reproduced by permission of Harper & Row]
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