with serpentine but with dolomite, which seems to prove that the cavities must have existed before either dolomite or serpentine was introduced into the substance. It may be admitted that no structure precisely similar to that of some of the specimens of *Eozoon* has yet been discovered in the mineral kingdom.[18] But it must also be conceded that the chances against the occurrence of any organism in rocks of such antiquity, and which have been so disturbed and mineralized, are so great that nothing but the clearest evidence of a structure which cannot be other than organic should be admitted in proof. If any mineral structure could be appealed to, as so approximately similar as to make it possible that even the most characteristic forms of *Eozoon* might be due to some kind of mineral growth, the question would be most logically settled in a sense adverse to the organic nature of the substance.[19]

The opinion of the organic nature of *Eozoon* has been supposed to receive support from the large quantity of graphite found throughout the older rocks of Canada and the northern parts of the United States. This mineral

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[18] The nearest resemblance to the "canal-system" of Eozoon which I have seen in any undoubtedly mere mineral aggregate is in the structure known as micropegmatite, where, in the intergrowth of quartz and orthoclase, arborescent divergent tube-like ramifications of the one mineral are inclosed within the other (see Fig. 5). Mr. Rudler, who called my attention to the resemblance, showed me a remarkable micropegmatite, brought from the Desert of Sinai by Prof. Hull, in which the Eozoonal arrangement is at once suggested.

[19] Whitney and Wadsworth in their "Azoic System" (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard, 1884, pp. 528–548) give a summary of the controversy, and decide against the organic origin of Eozoon. From the zoological side also Rœmer and Zittel decline to receive Eozoon as an organism. In the pre-Cambrian rocks of Bohemia and Bavaria specimens were some years ago obtained showing a structure like that of the Canadian Eozoon. They were accordingly described as of organic origin, under the respective names of Eozoon bohemicum and E. bavaricum. But their true mineral nature appears to be now generally admitted. The original "Tudor specimen" of Eozoon figured by Dawson has recently been re-examined by Mr. J. W. Gregory, who decides against its organic origin. Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc. xlvii. 1891, p. 348.