enforce precautions to prevent the spread of the infection. Our author suggests some of the precautions, such as holding a handkerchief before the mouth in coughing, disinfection of handkerchiefs by perchloride of mercury, &c. He has a strong belief that, as the great system of antiseptics introduced by Lister has led to the use of precautions which have virtually banished septic processes from our hospitals, so Koch's discovery will lead to the banishment of tuberculosis, and he emphasises the responsibility of the medical profession in this matter.

The appendix furnished by Koch consists, of the summaries of 77 papers in which evidences are furnished of the communicability of tuberculosis. As the papers frequently contain several cases, the numbers of actually recorded observations are considerably greater. The dates of these records are interesting. Koch's great discovery was made in 1882. We find that from 1867 till 1881, or in fifteen years there were only thirteen records published. But in 1882 there were five; in 1883, five; in 1884, four; in 1885, eleven; in 1886, thirteen; in 1887, seven; in 1888, seven; in 1889, ten; or sixty-three records in the eight years since the discovery was made.

Sterility in Women, including its Causation and Treatment.

By ARTHUR W. EDIS, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., &c. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

STERILITY is not a term usually applied to the male sex, but Dr. Edis has thought it necessary to entitle his book *Sterility in Women*. Even this title, however, in spite of its evident effort after careful definition, is far from correctly designating this little book. It is a treatise on sterility something in the manner of the play without Hamlet. The subject of sterility is dismissed in 19 pages and the rest of the book is occupied with a description of the more frequent causes of sterility and the method of dealing with them. These conditions include ante flexion, retro flexion, granular degeneration of cervix, &c., and are mostly discussed without the slightest reference to sterility. The chapters on these subjects are in fact really extracts from the *Manual of Diseases of Women*, written some years ago by Dr. Edis, and are republished here simply by "turning up the shafts," a mode no doubt easy for Dr. Edis, but not satisfactory to his readers. When, for example, you are referred to Fig. 25, you will not find it in this book, but if you have the *Manual* you will find it there.

His *Manual* was, in its time, a very good one, but was written in the old style of giving no reference to sources of original information, and of making *ex cathedra* statements with no authority beyond mere surmise. We had hoped that this style of manual was becoming extinct; but every now and then we are met by a survivor of the species, and Dr. Edis, in this book, continues its existence.

For example, when he says (p. 2)—“It has been proved conclusively that men in robust health, where impotence is out of the question, the sexual act being perfectly accomplished, may have no living spermatozoa in their spermatic fluid.” He ought to adduce or at least refer his reader to this “conclusive” proof.

Again, when he says (p. 2)—“There may be a physiological incompatibility, a relative, not an actual sterility,” and bases this on the two facts—(1) that a husband and wife may live together without family for many years, and then “without apparently any alteration in the conditions” pregnancy ensues; and (2) that a wife, sterile with a husband who himself has had children by a former wife, conceives at once when she marries another husband,” we feel that the basis of his hypothesis is most insecure, and, in the absence of full reports of cases, quite unsupported. In both cases it is more probable that the temporary sterility had a pathological origin, and that “physiological incompatibility” is, if not inconceivable, at least most unlikely.

In discussing the pathology of the various conditions which, in his opinion, cause sterility, Dr. Edis has the same loose way of making unsupported assertions. Thus (p. 12)—“The ovaries may be so imperfectly nourished, from the general health being so debilitated, that the maturation of ova is arrested for the time being” . . . “The ovum itself may degenerate in the Graafian sac and never be expelled.” What evidence has Dr. Edis to show in support of such assertions? They are samples of the positive affirmations which hinder instead of advancing the progress of knowledge. No such statements should ever be made till the author has found examples of ova arrested by debility or degenerated in the Graafian sacs. Had he examined, for example, the ovaries of a girl in advanced phthisis, his one examination would have blown his theory to the winds.

In the discussion of the conditions causing sterility, there is hardly a pretence of completeness, and in regard to treatment, we are far from approving all the procedures recommended here. The intrauterine stem, for example, is far

too frequently advised, and, while the author gives directions for the use of syringes and pessaries, for the application of dry powders and liquid caustics to the cervix, there is no mention whatever of the most efficacious and simple means of treating endometritis—the curette. Indeed, the only reference to the curette in the whole book is in the narrative of one of the cases where it is merely said that after dilatation “the uterine cavity was curetted.”

Neither as adding to our knowledge of sterility, nor as advancing its treatment, can we consider this book at all so satisfactory as we feel Dr. Edis could have made it. Its failure is, in our opinion, largely due to the fact that Dr. Edis has merely republished what he wrote years ago, and has not given the subject a fresh and matured consideration.

Anatomy: Descriptive and Surgical. By HENRY GRAY, F.R.S. Twelfth edition. Edited by T. PICKERING PICK. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1890.

THAT *Gray's Anatomy* still retains its well deserved popularity is attested by the fact that it is only two years since the previous edition appeared. In reviewing that edition in the pages of this *Journal*, we called attention to the absence of any satisfactory description of the arterial supply of the brain, to the omission of any reference to the position of the convolutions of the brain in their relation to the exterior of the skull, and to the baldness and general inadequacy of any allusions to points of surface anatomy. We are pleased to find that such strictures are not now called for; indeed, in regard to the last particular, the editor has run into the opposite extreme, of very minute and even prolix description; that of the surface markings of the arm occupying two pages of very small print, and of the lower extremity a page and a half. We regret that our comment on Fig. 408 appears to have escaped editorial notice, so that it still happens that what figures on one side of the diagram as *temporo-sphenoidal lobe* is on the other side *parietal lobe*. The adoption of Sömmerring's classification of the cranial nerves, which makes the hypoglossal nerve the twelfth, instead of the ninth (as formerly), necessitates the change of title of the *descendens noni* to *descendens cervicis*, and we are surprised that Mr. Pick has not had the courage to make the necessary correction. Although the sections on surgical anatomy and surface markings have been printed in small type, the additions in