Professor Colin's conclusion is: "A steady increase in the number of children from the better-adapted parents should result in a gradual rise in the average quality of the population."

C. O. C.

POPULATION

The First Population Census of Sudan. *Report on the 1953 Pilot Population Census.* Khartoum, 1955. Also *Supplement to 1955-56 Census Interim Reports.* Khartoum, 1956. Republic of Sudan Ministry for Social Affairs. Pp. 183 and 37 respectively. Prices 20s. 6d. and 10s. 3d. respectively.

THE Sudanese Census, owing to variation of climatic conditions over the country and to the nomadic habits of much of the population, had to be held at a different time in each area. Thus the results, as they emerge, are to be published in a series of "interim reports"; these will give only tables of figures. The supplement to these interim reports describes the many difficulties encountered in making the enumeration and gives a general account of the methods used to overcome them. The magnitude of the problem of improving the lot of people in under-developed countries can be appreciated more fully after reading of the poor communications, the hundred different languages in use, the insufficiency of suitably qualified persons at all stages, and the superstition that prevents male enumerators from entering households and talking to the women and children. These and other circumstances hampered the taking of a complete count, and recourse was therefore had to sampling.

In the difficult conditions it was a wise move to have both a preliminary pilot survey and a post-enumeration check. The preliminary survey is described in a report that is not only handsomely produced (in Austria) but also generously illustrated with photographs and maps. Nevertheless it shows signs of hasty preparation and there are some important misprints. This is not altogether a disadvantage to the reader, as some picturesque words and phrases have been included which might, on consideration, have been sobered down into more official language. For instance, the enlivening effect of the following description cannot be denied: "The enumerators and supervisors carried their dignity high, were proud of their census armbands, inspired with the importance of the mission, shaved frequently, wore clean clothing, did not steal bananas from orchards, and caused no trouble with the fair sex." Although the sampling used was non-random, "there was in practice no bias. Nevertheless it is admitted that the purists would be justified in shaking their heads in grief."

As the chief purpose of the preliminary survey was to form an idea of the main problems in census-taking and decide how to overcome them rather than to obtain valid results, critical analysis of the tabular material and the commentary thereon does not seem to be called for. Indeed, in view of the proximity of the main census itself, it seems as though a good deal less detail might have been published, especially as it is admitted that there was insufficient time for revision and corrections.

P. R. C.

FEMINISM

Colmeiro-Laforet, C. *Orto y Ocaso del Feminismo.* [Rise and Decline of Feminism.] Vigo, 1956. Typ. "Faro de Vigo." Pp. 283. No price stated.

THE author is gynaecologist and obstetrician-in-Chief in the Vigo municipal hospital. His bibliography is extensive, including works in English and other languages, while, from the text, it is evident that his knowledge of the subject, both practical, based upon observation, and theoretic, founded upon sound reasoning and extensive studies, is profound. So it is to be hoped that, ere long, an English translation will appear.

But the general reader is likely to criticize the work for too much padding, since he may find it wearisome to wade through so many

pages of preliminary discussion before arriving at the conclusions, which, in some cases, are conspicuous by their absence. An abridged edition in English would be very useful and interesting.

The author enlarges upon the Marxist and the psycho-analytic viewpoints. According to Marx, at the dawn of civilization there was universal promiscuity—both as regards sex and property. Then came a matriarchal period, when women cultivated the fields and stored the produce, while the men hunted and fought. This gave power to the weaker sex, since what the men produced was immediately consumed. But with the rise of the idea of property, power passed to the other sex, because of man's superior strength, his ambition and inventive genius applied to production. The male then produced more and hunted and fought less, while the female cared for the home.

The industrial age brought with it the concept of equality, gradually extended from that of class to that of race, and finally of sex. But this has, in turn, brought about *disparatadas*, absurdities due to fanatical adhesion to preconceived ideals, and the attempt to make facts conform to theories, rather than theories to facts. Since Nature made women different in many respects from men, *disparatadas* result from the attempt to deny it. The same applies to the concept of absolute equality among the races of mankind.

In Russia, there was, for a time after the revolution, absolute promiscuity, which resulted in disaster. The streets were soon filled with fatherless children, abandoned also by their mothers, who claimed the same freedom as the men in sexual matters. Monogamy had to be restored, and parents made responsible for their children to a certain extent. A similar curb had to be put upon the communistic ideal of property. But what happened in Russia was an extreme case, though tendencies lie in the same direction wherever the natural function of womanhood—care of the home and of children—is set aside, and absolute equality in all matters idealised. The realization of these facts must bring about the *ocaso* of feminism carried too far.

The psychoanalysts look upon the insurgency of the female sex as due to a sort of inferiority complex, dating from early childhood. The little girl sees her brother physically stronger, more courageous and dominating than herself. Hence the excessive envy and jealousy to which women are prone. It must, however, be borne in mind that in speaking of characteristics, one refers to average individuals. There will always be a few masculine women and effeminate men, especially those born physically male or female but psychologically of the opposite sex. But policy must, in the first place, adapt itself to the rule, even if providing also for exceptions. Bearing this in mind, one may say that women are governed more by their emotions than by reason, and therefore are better adapted to home duties than public ones. Nature provided the mother, not the father, with milk for the infant. It has been said that love, of one kind and another, occupies fifty per cent of a woman's thoughts, but a much lower percentage of man's. And a mother's love is the most beautiful thing in the world. It is of no use to struggle against natural law. Nature punishes those who do so. The gradual return to common sense in these respects must everywhere bring about the decline of exaggerated feminism.

Very interesting, too, are the chapters explaining the causes of female unrest, in Britain and in Spain. Until quite recently, it was considered, in Spain, quite unnecessary to give a girl any but an elementary education. Catholic tradition, as well as Moorish, and the Roman legislation, upon which the laws and customs are based, all contributed to make Spain one of the last European countries to modify its attitude towards women; and it is, I think, unlikely that Spain will ever be guilty of *disparatadas* for even trousers and cigarettes are in *ocaso* already, with Spanish women; they were never popular. The Spanish woman's greatest charm is her old-fashioned modesty!

C. WICKSTEED ARMSTRONG.