

is described as existing in Sweden, and we are told that women who live in this type of union have the same rights as in the marriage sanctioned by the State. If it is accurate to speak of "rights" in this connection, then it is plain that the marriage is not entirely "free." We may also venture a doubt as to whether the communal households which are predicted as a future social arrangement would be quite as pleasant to live in, or as easy to manage, as Dr. Müller-Lyer would seem to suggest.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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*Family Council Law in Europe.* The Eugenics Society. Royal 8vo. Pp. 91. Price 3s. 6d.

Family Councils form an old-established method of guarding minors and weak-willed persons, orphans, illegitimate children, feeble-minded persons, dipsomaniacs, spendthrifts and persistent litigants of paranoid tendencies.

France and Italy still make active use of the system, and although the laws are divergent, the principle is maintained that both paternal and maternal relatives take part, and a Justice presides. Traces of such councils remain in Belgium, Spain, Japan and South America; they have fallen into disuse in Germany and some of the southern United States, while in Denmark, Norway and Sweden they have been superseded by State responsibility. It is evident that they are dying institutions and will never take root in England.

The present volume is a report compiled by Mrs. K. E. Trounson, assisted by various technical experts, and was made possible by an anonymous grant to the Eugenics Society. Chapters are devoted to the practice in the various countries, including England and Scotland, which seems superfluous. The work has been most thoroughly and conscientiously done, and the writing is so concise as to comprise almost a catalogue; full references are given throughout, and the little volume should be of considerable assistance to students of international law.

W. F. MENZIES.

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*Birth Control, Abortion and Sterilization.* By Dr. J. H. LEUNBACH, Copenhagen. English Text by the Author, revised by NORMAN HAIRE, ChM., M.B. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. Crown 8vo. Pp. 78. Price 2s. 6d.

This small book is a reprint of two lectures delivered before the International Congress of the World League for Sexual Reform, of which Dr. Leunbach is General Secretary, at Copenhagen in July, 1928, and London in September, 1929, respectively. The first, "Birth Control: Its Importance, Purpose and Technique," occupies 55 pages; the second, "Abortion and Sterilization in Denmark," is of less general interest.

The author first reviews and answers the usual arguments of the opponents of birth control—civilized peoples must not be outnumbered by uncivilized; large tracts of the earth must be