

Catholic Church, while adopting publicly and officially a rigorous attitude towards divorce, finds ways 'through private and discreet channels' of relaxing its laws in favour of rather arbitrarily selected individuals. If this is a reference to the work of the Rota, then one is amazed at the ignorance of an otherwise well-informed scholar. If not the Rota, then perhaps Dr Casserley will tell us more of these private and discreet channels.

JOHN FITZSIMONS

THE BRITISH WAY OF LIFE. By K. B. Smellie. (Heinemann; 15s.)

This is the latest addition, stimulating and competent, to a series dealing with 'various aspects of the history, present circumstances and problems, and future outlook of the countries concerned'. Professor Smellie comes out well from the formidable task of compressing all this into less than two hundred pages. His method is to deal with six different aspects of Britain—land and people, the family, education, economic life, political institutions, and Britain and the world. Each is set in its historical context and brought up to date, and completed by a further reading list.

What is lacking is anything about the British people themselves, their food, their dress, their newspapers, their literature, their ingrained love of gambling (and its latest manifestation the football pools), their attitude to the law and the rule of law. The result of all these *lacunae* is to provide a static picture which a foreigner would find most useful as a background for academic studies but not very helpful for understanding what the British people are like.

The illustrations have been chosen, with imagination, from *Punch*, Pissarro and photographs and really do illumine the text. Except in one instance: there is an aerial photograph of Kidbrooke School but no mention of comprehensive schools in the chapter on Education.

BETWEEN TWO EMPIRES. By M. D. R. Leys. (Longmans, Green and Co. 25s.)

Modern France, the country of changing governments, is something of an enigma to the British observer unused to recurrent governmental crises and changes of ministries. Even if he knows France well, he may still be puzzled. Nor can the problem be convincingly solved by vague references to the French Revolution, the Napoleonic interlude and the reactions to the Bourbon restoration. The key lies in the latter, certainly, during the years 1814 to 1848, when the anaemic attempt at constitutional monarchy collapsed and a second Napoleonic interlude followed.

Miss Leys, a Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford, has produced a masterly study of that critical period, for it was during these thirty-four