

book of the Hague Congress). He writes: 'By our combined exertions we have it in our power to restore the health and greatness of our ancient continent—Christendom as it used to be called'; and again as Pius X once said: 'Civilisation has no longer to be discovered, nor the new city to be built in the clouds. It has existed and it exists; it is the Christian civilisation. . . . It is only necessary to keep on founding and rebuilding it on its natural and divine foundations'. Taken together these two comments might provide excellent epigraphs for future writers on Western Union; yet even better would it be if they might be taken as a cue by statesmen of the world before it is too late.

NEVILLE BRAYBROOKE.

WEST OF THE DECLINE. By Frederick Jellinek. (Alliance Press; 12s. 6d.)

One sure way of making a literary reputation nowadays would seem to consist in forming a circle of friends who are eager to indulge in mutual back-slapping: the pattern can easily be detected no matter what kind of circle is formed, whether left-wing or young Tory, whether Catholic or Anglican. The general public suffers from the lack of intersection between these circles and waits anxiously for a sign from an angry man who is sickened with them all. Mr Jellinek is an angry man, not disinclined to punch offending noses, and he is thoroughly disgruntled with the contemporary economists of comfort. Wearers of the noses which he handles so severely include Crowther, Beveridge, Laski, Koestler, Kingsley Martin 'e tutti quanti'.

A plain statement of fact provides a summary of the book, that there is not sufficient food produced in the world to afford each inhabitant a comfortable, or even an adequate, standard of living. This means that the primary problem is not one of distribution but of production; Jellinek's elaboration of the theme also shows how we Westerners, even the poorest amongst us, have been living upon the backs of slaving Indians, Chinese, Africans, etc. How we are to change the situation is a question which Jellinek scarcely answers, but his vigorous writing certainly helps us to recognise the need for change. It would be a pity if his ungainly literary style were to dissuade prospective readers from learning the lesson which he has to teach.

D. NICHOLL.

KEVIN O'HIGGINS. By Terence de Vere White. (Methuen; 18s.)

Injustice to a people, besides inflicting suffering, is apt to breed tragedy. Too often the injured party not only endures wrongs from its oppressor, but, in its efforts to redress them, becomes itself divided by internal feuds.

There have been minor instances of this in the differences that have arisen amongst the Poles in their struggle against Soviet injus-