Bible Flowers (review)*—No other collection of books has ever been so widely and consistently read as the Bible, and, with the present-day interest in plants and flowers, a popular book on this subject should command a considerable public. This book by Mr. A. W. Anderson might more accurately be entitled "Some Plants of the Bible" for in content it is somewhat selective. Twenty-five of the more outstanding plants are dealt with in detail with an introduction covering such topics as "the Spices of King Solomon's Garden", "Cereals, Bitter Herbs and Manna", "Thorns, Briers and Brambles" and "Trees". For the selected plants Mr. Anderson provides interesting readable accounts full of anecdote, some of them, it must be admitted, of Greek or Roman or even recent origin and without any clear biblical context. As might be expected the exact identity of many of the selected plants is debatable, especially where the names rose or lily are involved. Mr. Anderson discusses some, if not all, of the various suggestions for identity that have been put forward from time to time.

In a book of this limited range and size it is a pity to note one or two inaccuracies. *Camelina sativa* (p. 12) is wrongly described as a "member of the Carrot family", and Redouté's plate of *Lilium candidum* is from volume X not volume II of Reichenbach's Icones Florae Germanicae. Furthermore, to take a final example (p. 69), the Sycamore was introduced into England in the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, and whilst it is naturalized in many places it is hardly wild in the true sense.

The volume is very pleasantly produced and is illustrated by 12 coloured reproductions from various famous works, including paintings by Bauer and Redouté. These illustrations must have been one factor in setting the price at a guinea, which, in these utilitarian days, is high for such a book. It has limited reference value and will probably find its greatest worth as a gift or presentation volume, for which it is admirably suited.

P. S. GREEN.

English Gardens (review)†—This volume will make both an attractive memento and an enticing guide book for the tourist who appreciates architecture with plants as well as with stone and brick. It gives one or more black and white photographs and a descriptive note for each of 160 privately owned gardens, all of which are open to the public at some period of the year.

The photographs are drawn from several sources and they achieve varying degrees of success—most being both charming and informative. Their reproduction and layout is in the well-known Country Life tradition, and even the experienced will find something unfamiliar in the widely varied styles of gardening portrayed.

Although several of these "English Gardens" have Welsh addresses the Scottish boundary has been respected. Perhaps this indicates that we may look forward to a volume of Scottish gardens?

J. M. ALLFORD.

* Plants of the Bible, by A. W. Anderson. London, Crosby, Lockwood and Son, 1957. Pp. 72, 12 col. plates. Price 21 shillings.

† English Gardens Open to the Public, by A. G. L. Hellyer. London, Country Life, 1956. Pp. 160, col. front., 235 photos. Price 30 shillings. Also received: Amateur Gardening Spring Guide 1957, ed. A. G. L. Hellyer. Pp. 132. Six shillings.