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.

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Eelworm Predators (review)*—Dr. Duddington's book is an introduction to the group of fungi characterised by their predacious nature, that is by having the ability to capture and digest microscopic animals. He has presented the subject from the point of view of their possible use in controlling eelworm diseases of various crops, the book being sub-titled "A new approach to the eelworm problem". The opening chapters describe the eelworm menace, with brief references to some of the more important types and their life histories, and the present methods and attendant difficulties associated with their control. This is followed by a review of the nematode-trapping fungi which deals with the species concerned, their ecology, and the various methods by which capture of the host animal is effected. The final section of the book gives a detailed account of the attempts that have been made to direct the predacious activities of the fungi towards the control of certain eelworms parasitic on plants and animals.

The text is supplemented with 7 text-figures and 24 photographic plates, and has been written in "simple language for the reader with no special scientific knowledge". A bibliography is provided, dealing mainly with the work carried out on the aspect of biological control. Two appendices deal with the collection, cultivation and examination of predacious fungi.

The book is generally interesting and readable, but is marred by repetition. The "new approach to the eelworm problem', which is presented in the final three chapters, is unconvincing and gains nothing by the detail involved in its presentation. The conclusions which seem inescapable are that it is premature to consider the predacious fungi as affording anything more than a possibility of eelworm control, and that a considerable amount of research is required before any optimistic outlook on the subject is justified.

D. W. R. MACKENZIE.

* The Friendly Fungi, by C. L. Duddington. London, Faber & Faber, 1957. Price 21 shillings.