must not be overlooked, though Dr. Baykov might retort that Mr. Gollancz was misinterpreting a passing phase. But Mr. Gollancz is on unchallengeable ground when he makes a plea for the "moral leadership" of which he believes Britain to be still capable. America produced a Roosevelt to revitalize its democracy in an hour of crisis. Can we produce another Gladstone? Mr. Gollancz would probably agree that something of the Gladstonian moral fervour is required.

MAURICE BRUCE

A SURVEY OF SEX

Sex Life and Faith

A Modern Philosophy of Sex. By Rom Landau. Pp. 319. (London: Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1946.) 21*s*. net.

MR. ROM LANDAU nowhere claims to speak as an 'authority' on sex and is none the worse for that. His publishers, however, do him no service by describing this volume as "possibly the most outspoken, provocative and comprehensive book on sex to appear since *The Psychology of Sex* by Havelock Ellis" for, by the bright light of Ellis, Landau looks rather dim. But then, who would not? Take Mr. Landau at his own valuation as one who has frequently been asked to advise people on their sex problems and who has read rather widely in the literature of sex, and one must admit that his advice is on the whole sound and his reading well digested. Mr. Landau, moreover, *can* write—which is more than may be said of some so-called 'authorities'.

The book certainly justifies the description of "outspoken", for whatever the author's failings may be, mealy-mouthedness is not among them. In these days of polite understatement it is a joy to read his forthright denunciation of "miscellaneous religious circuses and revivalist kindergartens", of the "semi-dressed, silk-stockinged nymph errant of the strip cartoon" as "the little man's daily safety-valve, and symbolic of our whole attitude to sex", and of the "panvirilist aspirations of the 'suffragette' type"—although in this last case Mr. Landau is perhaps carried away by his enthusiasm when he finds himself agreeing with St. Paul that "man was not created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man".

In somewhat similar fashion, the author's generalizations are occasionally rash. It would, for example, be difficult to justify such statements as "It appears that those who show the healthiest attitude to sex are the British seamen", or "the German has hardly begun to gain mastery over his sexual instincts"—or even "more often than not people are sexually attracted by types not similar but opposite to their own".

The claim to comprehensiveness is also justified. The author ranges over the physiology, psychology and anthropology of sex; sex in politics and art; marriage, fidelity and polygamy; homosexuality and sublimation; the attitudes to sex of the various churches; and the contribution which religion can make to the solution of the problems of sex behaviour. Herein, indeed, lies one limitation. When so many topics are discussed in so few pages, none of them can be discussed exhaustively. This, however, is not a condemnation of the book, for reconnaisance has its function as well as consolidation.

In brief, this volume is a well-written survey of sex in many of its manifestations, which may be read with some profit by any interested person. This review cannot close, however, without a protest at Mr. Landau's ascription to the late Dr. Temple of the view that sex is "man's greatest sin". One need not rely on one's own conviction that this is totally out of the late Primate's character, for we have his own words. In "The Church Looks Forward" (Macmillan, 1944), Dr. Temple wrote: "Sexual sin is not the only sin nor the worst kind of sin; the supreme sin and the fountain-head of all the others is pride, not lust"—which statement seems sufficiently unequivocal.

CYRIL BIBBY

MODERN ASPECTS OF PLANT NUTRITION

Trace Elements in Plants and Animals

By Prof. Walter Stiles. Pp. xi + 189 + 7 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1946.) 12*s*. 6*d*. net.

THE part played by minor or trace elements in the economy of plant life has only become apparent since the beginning of this century, and most of the work on the subject is comparatively recent. Nevertheless the literature on the subject is now so voluminous that it is very difficult to survey the present position, putting the right emphasis on the different aspects of the problem. This difficulty is specially acute in the case of biological students, who are expected to have some insight into such an important subject, but have neither access to much of the literature, nor the critical knowledge to enable them to select the most essential features of the work that has been done.

Prof. Stiles has outlined the subject in such a way as to meet the needs of such students, and also to provide a useful reference volume for research workers in the same field. His historical introduction includes a priority list giving the names of workers who first realized that particular minor elements were favourable to the growth of certain species; but he is careful to insist that these are not all claims that the element is essential. Some account is also given of methods of purification of salts used in nutrient cultures, the methods of estimating the minor elements in plant material, and the way that mineral deficiencies can be diagnosed. The discussion of trace-element deficiency diseases in plants is wisely confined to a small group of elements on which considerable work has been done, and the results generally accepted as proving the case. Manganese, boron, copper, zinc, and to a less degree molybdenum are all recognized as being necessary in small amounts for the well-being of many, if not all, species of plants, diseased conditions or failure to develop normally resulting if the element is not present or is in too short supply. The actual function of trace elements in plants is still a matter of much controversy, and only in a few cases can any dogmatic statement be made. The various hypotheses and claims are indicated; but much work will need to be done before definite proof can be obtained.

A short account is also given of the study of trace elements in animals, though far less work has been done in this connexion. Certain diseases are recognized as due to excess of trace elements, and the value of traces of copper, iodine, manganese, and cobalt for healthy growth is also clear, but here again much research is needed. An index and a selected bibliography of about 450 references provide useful guides to those who wish to follow up the subject.

W. E. BRENCHLEY