

in the United States. By Sarah Slavin Schramm. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press. 1979. \$17.50.

The pretentious title promises much more than the volume itself delivers. It is a rather stuffy, dissertation quality summary of the ideas of selected feminists which offers minimal attempts at analysis. For no clearly explained reason the narration terminates with the early 1950's, then rather awkwardly concludes with a tacked-on, previously published essay by the author on the focus, idea power, and promise of contemporary women's studies programs.

University of Northern Iowa

Glenda Riley

AMERICAN LAWYERS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY, 1776-1876. By Maxwell Bloomfield. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1976. \$15.00.

This book does much to dispell the conventional wisdom that the first half of the nineteenth century was a period of decline for the American legal profession. In a series of biographical essays and through an examination of antebellum literature Bloomfield advances the thesis that open access into the profession enhanced its standing in the eyes of the public and, by bringing into the profession persons from a broad range of social backgrounds, enabled it to cope more effectively with the increasingly more complex needs of the growing nation and its economy.

FHH

ANOTHER PART OF THE WAR: The Camp Simon Story. By Gordon C. Zahn. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press. 1979. \$14.00.

During World War II, the American government placed some 12,000 conscientious objectors in 151 Civilian Public Service camps. Drawing upon documentary records, written communications from the assignees, and his personal experience, the author deftly conveys the frustrating experience of the one Catholic camp, located in rural New Hampshire. The work was trivial, the administration resented and the underlying basis of conscription demoralizing. And yet, Camp Simon also provided "the first corporate witness against war and military service in the history of American Catholicism," thus anticipating the changes of the future. Although narrowly focused, this is an important, moving work.

State University of New York, Albany

Lawrence S. Wittner

SIX WHO PROTESTED: Radical Opposition to the First World War. By Frederick C. Giffin. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press. 1977. \$9.95.

Giffin has made a routine survey of the anti-war activities of six famous and frequently studied American radicals: Eugene V. Debs, Morris Hillquit, Max Eastman, John Reed, Emma Goldman and William D. Haywood. Treated separately and as though they were totally unrelated, the sketches do give evidence of conscientious research in unpublished papers and some unfamiliar material is presented. However, the stories are well known and little in the way of new information or interpretation is offered. There are occasional banalities prompted by the author's penchant for eulogization rather than critical analysis. The volume will stimulate little interest among specialists but as a brief treatment of radical, as distinguished from liberal or pacifist anti-war opinion, it may find a place on undergraduate reading lists.

Queens College

Michael Wreszin

literature

THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE IN NEW ENGLAND. Edited by Joel Myerson. (Volume One of THE DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY) Detroit: Gale Research Company. 1978. \$35.00.

It is not entirely beyond the range of possibility that, if subsequent volumes of this ambitious series are as useful as this one, literary history might come to seem a more or less rationally-organized discipline, one in which it is possible to brief oneself quickly and in one place on the best current understanding of a movement, issue or problem. The idea of a book of literary biographies—some substantial in length—focused upon a movement (an "area of North American literature," the editors

call it) is excellent, and the first volume is very well done. The editors' hope that this would be "more than a reference volume" seems fulfilled: because many of the biographees knew one another, interacted with one another and responded to common events, one finds oneself using the whole book to brief oneself on aspects of the New England florescence which no conventional literary history could afford space to cover. It treats issues related to Transcendentalism especially well. The volume leaves one impressed with the density of the web of interrelations among our writers. One can't follow all of them out in other entries, of course: Hawthorne-Emerson appears in this volume; Hawthorne-Poe, Hawthorne-Whipple and Hawthorne-Melville, while discussed briefly in Arlin Turner's sturdy entry on Hawthorne, will require (I suppose) Volume Three, "The American Renaissance in New York and the South." But one has to draw boundaries somewhere, and "New England" really makes pretty good sense. The scope of *DLB* and the need to make editorial decisions leave the project vulnerable to criticism; I found a few things one might grumble at, but very few, in truth. I would urge the editors to convince their publishers to issue a cheap edition. The book is too useful for Americanists and too readable to sit only in library reference alcoves.

SGL

THE INTERPRETATION OF OTHERNESS: Literature, Religion, and the American Imagination. By Giles Gunn. New York: Oxford University Press. 1979. \$14.95.

The last of these five essays is a stimulating examination of the "essential paradigm of the American experience, i.e., the "solitary self" forced into a recreation of itself by an encounter with the "ideal other."

University of Northern Iowa

Theodore R. Hovet

A WORLD BY ITSELF: The Pastoral Moment in Cooper's Fiction. By H. Daniel Peck. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1977. \$12.50.

What draws us to Cooper is not his novels' historical, symbolic, or even mythic interest, but, Peck argues (taking his cues from D. H. Lawrence and Gaston Bachelard), a childlike quality that addresses our primal "need for a world contained," for a psychological-aesthetic enclosure of the wilderness. Although Peck does not succeed in persuading us that a poetics of space is the principal source of Cooper's appeal, he does blend biography with close reading and lucid theory to produce a partial but useful survey of the intellectual and emotional boundaries within which this novelist established his art.

Lake Forest College

Alan Axelrod

REPRESENTATIVE MAN: Ralph Waldo Emerson. By Joel Porte. New York: Oxford University Press. 1979. \$15.95.

An unusual and useful book, learned, rich in textual detail, and woven out of a web of associations analogous to Emerson's own, *Representative Man* locates Emerson in "his time" in intellectual and personal—not social—terms. Its thesis is that "Emerson's reputation is . . . a measure of our own [national] stature," that he is and intended to be an emblem.

SGL

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: A Critical Biography of David Graham Phillips: Journalist, Novelist, Progressive. By Louis Filler. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press. 1978. \$12.95.

Louis Filler, the prime historian of Progressive Era liberalism, offers hot protest against what "half a century of derogation and pseudo-criticism" (p. 124) has done to Phillips' literary reputation. A thoughtful feminist, Phillips possessed greater skills and deeper understanding than Theodore Dreiser or Sinclair Lewis. A novelist of marriages that fail, Phillips wrote of dependence and independence, and of liberated, egalitarian, meaningful male-female relationships. Along with "The Treason of the Senate" and *The Plum Tree*, Filler particularly values *Light Fingered Gentry*, *Old Wives for New*, *The Hungry Heart* and Phillips' epic *Susan Lenox: Her Fall and Rise*.

University of Florida

David Chalmers

HAWTHORNE'S MAD SCIENTISTS: Pseudoscience and Social Science in Nineteenth-Century Life and Letters. By Taylor Stoehr. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books. 1978. \$19.50.