

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 textural 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.