

device and as a structural principle in his novels, Lundén makes a persuasive case for seeing Dreiser as a better craftsman in his fiction than he is usually given credit for. Particularly in the case of *Sister Carrie*, the author's dichotomies provide fresh and illuminating insight, as he shows how the pattern of contrasts is built into most of the chapter headings ('The Lure of the Spirit: The Flesh in Pursuit'), into the constellations of characters, and into the structure of the plot. In the final analysis, then, *The Inevitable Equation* succeeds because it has managed the difficult feat of integrating philosophical and esthetic analysis and thus enriched the reader's experience of the multifarious world of Dreiser's novels.

Erik Kielland-Lund

University of Oslo

## Book Notes

Torbjern Garberg and Aksel Rolf Arnesen, *The United States as a World Power*. Oslo. H. Aschehoug & Co. 1974. 64 pp.

This textbook presents brief, instructive surveys by the authors, excerpts from official speeches and documents, and selections from critical views of U.S. foreign policy. As a well balanced composite of conflicting views, provocative opinions and factual information it should prove a useful book for secondary schools. Indeed, it may be considered for use by first year university students of English. The explanations of difficult words and concepts as well as the informative footnotes will facilitate meaningful discussions in class.

John H. M. Laslett and Seymour Martin Lipset, eds., *Failure of a Dream? Essays in the History of American Socialism*. New York. Anchor Books. 1974. 754 pp. \$ 5.95.

The editors' purpose 'is to examine the reason for the relative weakness of American socialism with respect to the internal problems of the party and the movement in matters of tactics, ideology, and leadership.' This is done in a series of essays, some of which were written especially for this volume, by prominent scholars as well as by American socialists. Each main essay is followed by one or two essays of comment by other scholars and, when possible, a reply by the original author. The failure of socialism to take hold in the U.S. is a perennial problem for socialists as well as for historians and this critical anthology is one of the most comprehensive presentations of the issues involved.