Plurality of opinions is perhaps found in its most extensive form in the field of literary criticism. Critics often vary so widely in their attempts to answer some particular critical question that a young scholar or a university student finds it quite difficult to evaluate them. He is at a loss to discover that different groups of critics prescribe different approaches or theoretical ends with regard to the same set of critical questions. Each group, at the same time, claims its superiority as well as the only right approach towards the required solution.

R.S. Crane, the leader of the Chicago School of Criticism, has achieved a lot to end this confusion as well as to help the young scholars to realize why there are so many apparently opposing critical theories in the field of literary criticism. He shows us the way toward a multiple response to a literary text and thereby points out the significance or utility of the various critical theories. He has pointed out the lacunae of the New Criticism, established the necessity of studying literary history and the history of ideas, and above all emphasized the need for a pluralistic view of literature, offering at the same time a workable method for that purpose. In my thesis I have tried to examine and evaluate the critical position of R.S. Crane, I have divided my thesis into seven chapters, including the introduction and the conclusion, and
here it may very briefly be said what each one of them contains.

Chap. I: This introductory chapter is meant to elaborate the critical scenario at the beginning of the century. An evaluation of the New Criticism is quite natural in this connection. It thus explains the reasons why the Chicago School of Critics, led by R.S.Crane, emerges during the heyday of the New Criticism.

Chap. II: Here I have tried to elaborate Crane's theory of critical pluralism. In connection with this I have examined how far the designation of Neo-Aristotelianism suits this group of critics.

Chap. III: This chapter is a critical evaluation of what Crane has observed regarding the history of ideas.

Chap. IV: Crane has offered a guideline for writing the most fruitful literary history. He has also recorded his criticism of most of the existing forms of literary histories. I have tried to examine Crane's view on the subject.

Chap. V: Crane has studied the history of the humanities from the Renaissance to the present. His idea of the humanities has widened the meaning and scope of the humanities. This chapter, thus, is meant to evaluate Crane's achievement in this field.

Chap. VI: In this chapter I have concentrated on the
application of Crane's theory in his own practice. In other words, this chapter evaluates Crane's achievement in the field of practical criticism.

Chap. VII: This chapter serves as the conclusion and contains my final words about Crane.