

**C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*** (NY: Collier Books, Macmillan Pub. Co., 1962. 157 pp., \$4.95). Reviewed by Leonard W. Pine.

Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963) was no stranger to pain. His little treatise on the subject reflects that truth vividly. His stated purpose in writing on the subject, besides being asked to do so, is

to solve the intellectual problem of raised by suffering; for the far higher task of teaching fortitude and patience I was never fool enough to suppose myself qualified, nor have I anything to offer my readers except my conviction that when pain is to be borne, a little courage helps more than much knowledge, a little human sympathy more than much courage, and the least tincture of the love of God more than all. (Preface, p. 10)

Lewis acknowledges that he is no theologian, and furthermore that he writes as layman of the Church of England. For all of the resultant theological pitfalls he suffers under (for example, his views on theistic evolution), Lewis nevertheless deals effectively with the thorny philosophical issues of pain. He is careful to uphold the sovereignty and authority of God and warn against the presumption of man to accuse God of mismanagement.

Lewis will make you think. *The Problem of Pain* is *not* easy to read, at least not quickly. Every word counts, and its simple eloquence compels the reader to contemplation of every thought.

Lewis' personal acquaintance with pain and genius for making philosophy warmly human makes his little book a suitable source for challenging one's thinking in dealing with pain and suffering. †