

# Marxism and Culture

**WE THINK** our readers will agree that Samuel Sillen's series "Which Way Left-Wing Literature?" (concluded in Saturday's paper) opened up a real battle for Marxism in the cultural and literary field.

The discussion on the literary field reflects the sharpening class struggle of the times.

It is only proper for a workers' paper to deal with such issues for the cause of art and culture is close to the heart of the advanced working class, just as professional and literary people can realize their talents best within the working class movement.

The battle for Marxism is not restricted to the economic or political problems of American working people; capitalism bombards us hourly with its ideas on every front; American capitalism in particular has made mighty institutions of the press, the radio, the entertainment industry, the movies, the publication of books. And through these institutions it attempts to maintain its hold on the minds of the people.

Communists have a continuing obligation to meet the ideas of the capitalist class and defeat them. And in this battle we consider our literary editor's contribution especially important. Undoubtedly, there will be further discussion of these problems everywhere among workers and artists.

Not only is art a weapon, but the weapons of criticism in the fields of the arts need continual sharpening. The great battles of the American people for their living standards, for democracy, for peace and for freedom from capitalist exploitation are bound to bring forth new books, new plays, new reflections of American life. From the ranks of returning veterans new portraits of American imperialism in decay are bound to develop.

For the established writers and the new writers, the time we live in is a challenge: Marxism offers not only an analysis and answer but a mighty and noble stimulus to creative endeavor in every field.

We think that a more thorough study of Marxism and a more painstaking application of it will help to overcome the admitted shortcomings of the "Literary Left." Such a study will improve the work of every progressive writer, release every honest talent and speed a new flowering of democratic culture.