

# Gilbert Lewis

Gilbert Lewis, young Negro proletarian writer, died in Moscow early in June at the age of 26. Lewis, who was a member of the John Reed Club and contributor to the *New Masses*, was born in New Orleans in 1904. He felt keenly the oppression of his race and his earliest poems and stories were on this theme. He worked as seaman, window cleaner and at other jobs, and about three years ago joined the Communist Party. He was active in the New York window cleaners' strike in the fall of 1929 and subsequently played a leading role in the strike of the subway tunnel workers. Early in 1930 he was sent to Chattanooga as the organizer of the Trade Union Unity League.

In the fall of 1930 he went to Moscow to study. But tuberculosis of the lungs and stomach had advanced too far and he had to be taken to the Yalta Sanitarium in the Crimea, where he died despite all efforts to save him. He was buried in the Crimea, memorial meetings being held for him in Moscow and other parts of the Soviet Union.

Lewis was both writer and trade union organizer; he gave all he had—and finally his life—for the workingclass struggle.