

# The Battle Of The Languages

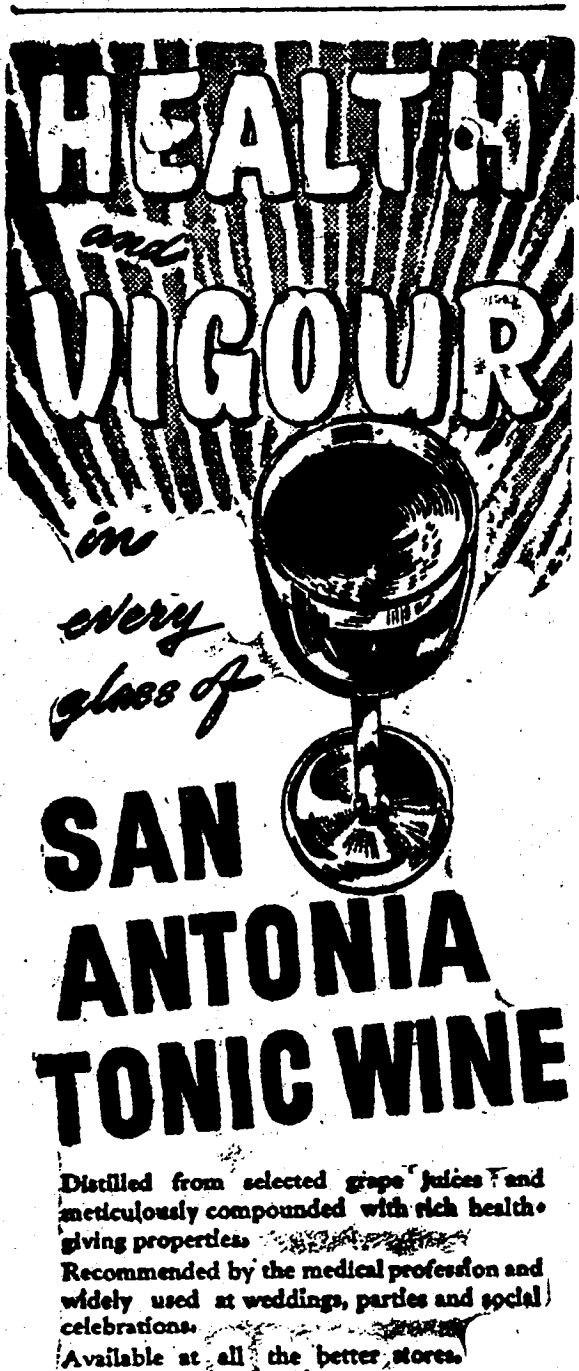
By Prof. A. R. WADIA

INDIA has at last achieved freedom, and all Indians have a right to rejoice in it. But freedom, even when won without violence, brings in its wake peculiarly difficult problems, and until and unless they are solved freedom may prove more a liability than an asset.

One such problem is that of languages, over which a battle has been waged, and lost in part—for, I believe that the cry for Pakistan was in part induced by the problem of language. Short-sighted nationalism may yet lead to another defeat, leaving India wallowing in the morass of a multiplicity of languages. True Indian nationalism must imply an emphasis on India as a whole in all essentials, while in matters of religion or of social and provincial customs a certain amount of latitude is inevitable.

Frank recognition of a few hard facts, however unpalatable they will be, will lead to clarification of the problem in hand. That nature has given a geographical unity to India cannot be denied. That there is a certain cultural unity in India need not be denied, though we shall have to recognise that this unity has had cross-sections, as represented by the old Dravidian culture and by Islamic culture.

It cannot be denied that the peo-



**HEALTH AND VIGOUR**

in every glass of

**SAN ANTONIA TONIC WINE**

Disilled from selected grape juice and carefully compounded with rich health giving properties. Recommended by the medical profession and widely used at weddings, parties and social celebrations.

Available at all the better stores.

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS:  
RIO DISTRIBUTING CO.,  
BARRACK ROAD, FORT, BOMBAY.



**B-TEX**

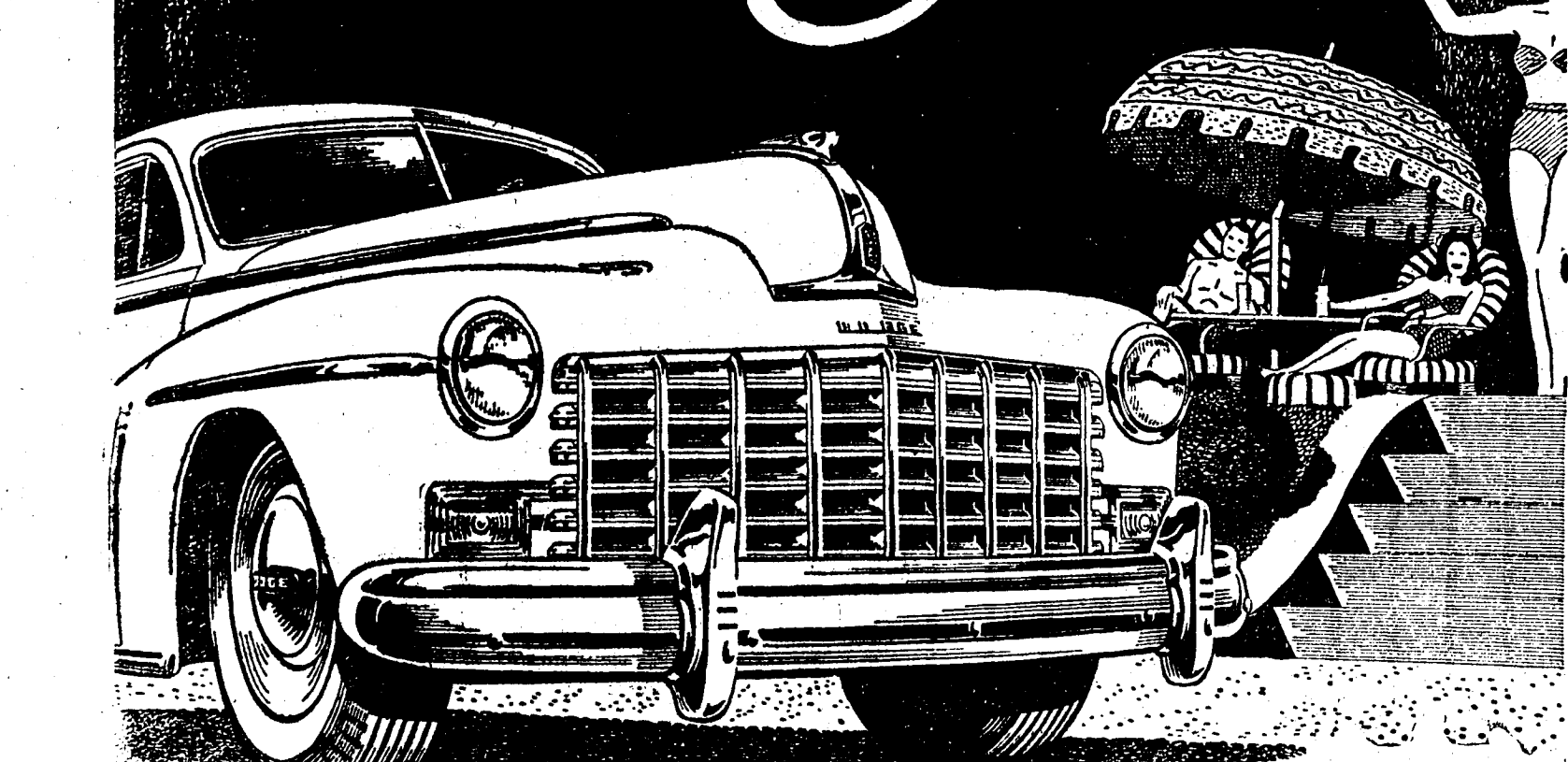
WHITE OINTMENT

Ends Ringworm and Itches

B-TEX OINTMENT MFG. CO.

Wherever You Go.... Whatever You Do....  
You Will Be Proud to Own a

# Dodge



BOMBAY CYCLE & MOTOR AGENCY, LTD.,  
584, SANDHURST BRIDGE, BOMBAY 7.

TEL: 40585.

TEL: "CYCLOSTERS".

THE CAR YOU WILL WANT TO DRIVE... **Dodge** ...THE CAR YOU WILL WANT TO OWN!

Sindhi, Gujarati or Urdu? Similar difficulties have to be faced in all border districts.

## South India's Case

RECENTLY a political leader told me that he was invited by one linguistic group in Belgaum and there was a risk of disturbance, if not a riot, being created by the other linguistic group. One can understand why even the Congress government in Delhi, after all the talk they had indulged in about linguistic provinces, are now hesitating, for they know the troubles they will have to face in border areas where the proportion may easily be fifty-fifty.

Even assuming that this hurdle is crossed, though it is a big assumption, logically not merely every school but every college and university will have its own provincial language as the medium of instruction. Hindi may be made compulsory, but will it ever be mastered all over India as English has come to be mastered? South India peculiarly enough took very kindly to English so much so that even rich wallahs and coolies in Madras have picked it up, while the man who speaks Hindi will find it hard to make himself understood.

We may take it that in South India and in Bengal Hindi will find a very subsidiary position except for those that aspire to be members of the Central Assembly or have to work in the Secretariat there. Since the language of a university will be provincial, it is clear that in future we shall never have the students of one province studying in other provinces or eminent professors of one province being appointed in other provinces. It follows that the main qualification for appointment as professors will be their mastery of the provincial language and not the mastery of their own subject, be it Physics or Chemistry, Anatomy or Physiology.

## Tourists' Confusion

IN these circumstances the unity that we had in the last century and in this century so far will be lost. I noticed in Calcutta that many of the street names are in Bengali characters. If this fashion spreads, an Indian from one province will find himself lost in the mazes of the end-lessscripts of Indian languages. It is appalling to contemplate the idea of our getting into wrong trams and buses because of our inability to master a new alphabet when we go on short visits to other provinces, for pleasure or for work.

I am quite prepared to be told that all these difficulties are imaginary for Hindi will take the place

of English. It remains to be seen how far South India and Bengal will accept Hindi and with what degree of success. The experience of Rajaji when he tried to force Hindi on South India is too recent to be forgotten, and I am not sure whether it had not something to do with the unwillingness of South Indian leaders to have him as a premier last year, even when the High Command threw out very clear hints in that direction. Further, will the degrees of the various universities be recognised by one another? So far the degrees of Osmania University have been looked on askance merely because of Urdu being its medium of instruction. A day may come when an Indian student will find it easier to get admission into Oxford or Cambridge than into any university in India outside his province.

## Standpoint In U. P.

IT would be futile to deny that the language problem in India today bristles with difficulties, and they are magnified beyond all proportion by the ridiculous haste with which some politicians, especially in the U.P., are anxious to get rid of English. This haste is intelligible, but not statesmanlike. The language problem in the U.P. is the easiest, because Hindi is the language of the province and the people of the U.P. will not have to face the burden of learning two languages, provincial and Indian.

The standard of English is so low in these parts, that they would like to do away with it as much as possible, if not altogether. That they have discarded Urdu altogether and repudiated even Hindustani in spite of the repeated protests of Gandhi, whom they profess to follow, does not speak much for their sense of realism. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that they are anxious to make linguistic capital out of the present situation, oblivious of the conditions in Bengal and in South India, and indelicately oblivious even of Urdu which has been the language of the U.P., both of Hindus and Muslims, for centuries.

It is most refreshing to learn that the centre of sanity at present in the matter of languages is to be found in the Educational Minister in the Government of India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Whether in his Capacity Address at Patna, or in the conference that he had called in January last, he spoke in favour of not dislodging English from its present position for some years, at least five, if we are to avoid a woeful chaos in our educational system. The irony of it is that he is the one prominent Indian leader who does not care to speak in English, but he has imbibed the spirit of the English language much more than others from whom something better can be expected.

## "No Need To Hurry"

WHAT is the way out of the morass? That English can never

## SCIENTISTS LEARN "MONKEY-TALK"

MOSCOW: Scientists are learning monkey languages at the Sukhumi biological station in Georgia. It is really much easier than learning human languages; the vocabularies are so much smaller. For example, the hamadryad baboon has only 16 "words"—separate sounds expressing elementary feelings like fear, anger, hunger, or for calling the young, and so on.

None of the monkeys used in experiments at the station has a vocabulary approaching that of the chimpanzee, which according to research workers elsewhere has 33 "words". But "monkey-talk" is only a sideline of the Sukhumi scientists, whose job is to solve large numbers of biological and medical problems for the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences.

again occupy the same position in our educational system as it has done for the last hundred years has to be accepted in view of the prevailing sentiment of a narrow provincial nationalism. That it cannot be immediately displaced should also be recognised by the powers that be as a matter of practical politics. We have to find a solution at a point midway between these two extremes. There is no need to hurry, for haste, even when called patriotism, usually leads to waste. Recently in a private talk the Vice-Chancellor of a leading university said to me with reference to these politicians that we seem to be living today in Bedlam. This is a sentiment which will be echoed by most educationists, whether politicians or not. More thought should be devoted to the following problems:

1. The supreme place of the provincial language in schools. At what stage should the study of Hindi begin?
2. Should English be compulsory or optional, and at what stage?
3. What should be the medium of instruction at the University stage? If it is to be the provincial language, would it not be advisable to have Hindi or even English as the medium of instruction at the post-graduate stage to maintain inter-university contacts?

These are problems which affect all India and they should not be dealt with at the sweet will of provincial fanatics, if India is to justify her claim that she does constitute one nation.

(To Be Continued)

## By "Sunday News" Correspondents

Mrs. Kamalabai Modak, I believe, is the founder, has now several branches. Miss Cama, who recently returned from an overseas tour, gave her impressions to members of the Women's National Council during the week. Mrs. Vivian Bose, who takes a keen interest in social work, has worked out a scheme for a hospital in the village of Mahodulla.

The Balak Mandir, run by the Bhagini Mandal, has now its own building. The Governor of the C.P. and Berar, Mr. Mangaldas Palkwad, has visited the school. The institution has made considerable progress during the 12 years of its existence. It now has a training school for teachers. Mrs. Tarabai Modak, M.L.A. (Bombay), declared that more such schools should be started throughout the country. The Balak Mandir is run on Montessori lines.

## HYDERABAD

An extensive programme for the modernisation of station buildings and schemes for providing additional facilities to the travelling public are now being undertaken by the Nizam's State Railway. Kazipet Station, which is an important junction on the Madras-Delhi route, is now being remodelled and an entirely new station building with spacious waiting halls for passengers, separate accommodation for purshers and special booking and parcel offices will be built. On the first floor of the new station building retiring rooms as well as up-to-date refreshment rooms are being constructed.

Hyderabad will soon have an airport which will bear comparison with any airport in India. Work has begun on the expansion of Begunpet which is about two miles from Hyderabad.

## SANGLI

A question which has been engaging the attention of Government and the public alike in this part of Bombay, province, is the formation of a new administrative district of the merged area of Sangli and other Deccan States. Provisionally an administrative district with Sangli as its headquarters has been formed. Sangli stands on the borders of Maharashtra and the Karnatak and is situated nearly midway between Satara and Belgaum districts. So it is likely that Sangli and other merged Deccan States may finally be constituted a district with some adjustments.

## CALICUT

A conference of the Mercantile Employees' Association of Malabar viewed with concern the various factors contributing to the diminution of the trade and commerce of Calicut and decided to urge on the Government of India the need to improve and expand the port.

Meetings of Ayurvedic physicians held throughout Malabar have condemned the action of the Madras Government in licensing the manufacture and sale of "asavas" and "aristas" (fluid tonics) under the Prohibition Act. A deputation will represent to Government the harmless nature of these tonics, which do not contain alcohol, and urge the immediate withdrawal of the restrictions, as otherwise it will discourage the indigenous system and encourage foreign systems of medicine.

# The German Man In The Street

## A PORTRAIT

By

DR. NAVINKUMAR DALAL

D.Sc (Heidelberg)

I HAVE known him well for the last eighteen years. I lived next to him from 1929-1947, and met him every morning on his way to office. We became good friends, and I came to know his sorrows, miseries and little joys. Neither of us ever felt superior to the other.

He has varied professions—plumber, school teacher, business-man, shopkeeper, watchman in a museum or caretaker. He is middle-aged, of medium stature, with a once ruddy face, now somewhat lean and hollow-cheeked, his clothes hanging a little loosely. He is not quite as immaculate and spick-and-span as usual. His shoes are worn out and their laces are replaced by coloured paper string. His stockings are much-patched, and his brown felt hat looks rather fingered. Since he can't get razor-blades, he uses old ones and so presents a "scratched" appearance.

## Fear Of Authorities

HE will tell you what he thinks if he knows he can trust you. The past twelve years taught him to be afraid. Not of direct death—he faced it many times when he poured down from the skies—but of "the authorities," rooted in old German obedience to the State.

The other day I met him gazing at a shop window displaying some concert advertisements. He reminded me of a very promising young pianist who had been hailed as one of the foremost interpreters of modern music. At noon on the day of his concert—it was a fairly large town in the south of Germany, in 1943—paper strips were pasted crosswise over the posters, announcing its cancellation. Money was refunded without explanation. Two months later there was a short notice in the press: "Kreiten, a pianist, who had maliciously uttered derogatory remarks about the Fuhrer and attempted to dissuade a fellow-countrywoman from her staunch belief in the Fuhrer and victory, was sentenced to death by the People's Court in Berlin and executed." He had severely criticised Hitler in the presence of a woman at the hotel dinner table. This "he" reported him to the Gestapo, and before the next morning breakfast he was transported to Berlin.

## Some Complexes

IN reminding me of this, my friend drew my attention to some common complexes: never say what you really think about politics, not even now, you might never know how it may be held against you after the next change of government; be careful, even though the execution of what is "duty," excites you from "guilt," remain small in public life, and you fare well. "You don't know in what new form the Nazis may emerge one day."

The U.S. zone has more food than the others. Germans are governing themselves and only rarely is the occupation felt; demarcation between occupation and government is clear-cut and there is no interference. The British zone does not have enough to eat. It may now become better after the merger. The small French zone does not seem to hold much attraction, except for black-market smuggling. Not all "fugitives" from the Russian zone are genuine cases. They often have a shady background and tell stories. Food is on about the same average as in the other three zones, though allotments may be irregular. However, to "get anywhere" you must join the SED (Socialist Unity Party). Controlled administration is carried out by German SED officials.

## Third War: Hope & Fear

A THIRD war seems inevitable to the Man in the Street. "We said so all the time," say the Nazis, who think it is a good chance. He is

much concerned about it, for Germans will be fighting Germans. Another concern is, "Who will win, and what will happen to me if I have previously committed myself?" Minor and medium Nazis hailed the Americans as liberators, but on seeing they did not care for an alliance, they felt slighted. The Man in the Street expostulates that it is better to have Germany united, as the three Western zones are 60 per cent. dependent on food imports, while the Eastern zone was Germany's great agricultural reservoir. Crops will be very bad this time because of the unusual weather—four months' severe drought in summer, then a cold spell followed in the south-western parts by almost unprecedented high water and flooding, and blossoms bursting forth in January.

The failure of the London Big Four Conference was a grim affair for the Man in the Street, but he reminded me, "I told you so in 1945."

## Political Apathy

POLITICALLY, he prefers a retired life. The violent slogans and crude propaganda of the present political parties, who seem to have preserved the Nazi vocabulary, are more intoxicating than inviting. And the Man in the Street can't forget they failed once before in crucial times. Now the old whickers and beards are back. The Communist party, smallest but most active, has become very nationalistic and is organised along Nazi party lines with even the same office ranks; Blockleiter, Zellenleiter, Ortsgruppenleiter, Kreisleiter. That makes him cautious. Recent elections showed a participation of barely 60 per cent. with the Social Democrats leading, the two rightist Christian-Democrats and Democrats close second and third, and the Communists fourth. None of the German-licensed newspapers in the U.S. zone followed General Clay's drive against Communism, and none were forced to do so. "Our newspapers are very grave owing to lack of paper and thus are filled with tension. We are all in a state of anxious suspense. All parties are stressing the union of Germany, although they clearly see that politicians in the German Eastern Zone are following lines quite differently inspired from those in the other three zones, and reconciliation seems almost hopeless." Here the Man in the Street lit a pipe from which there presently emerged a foul stench. "It is a special blend. I call it 'mermaid.' "Why?" "Always camp."

## Not Good At Democracy

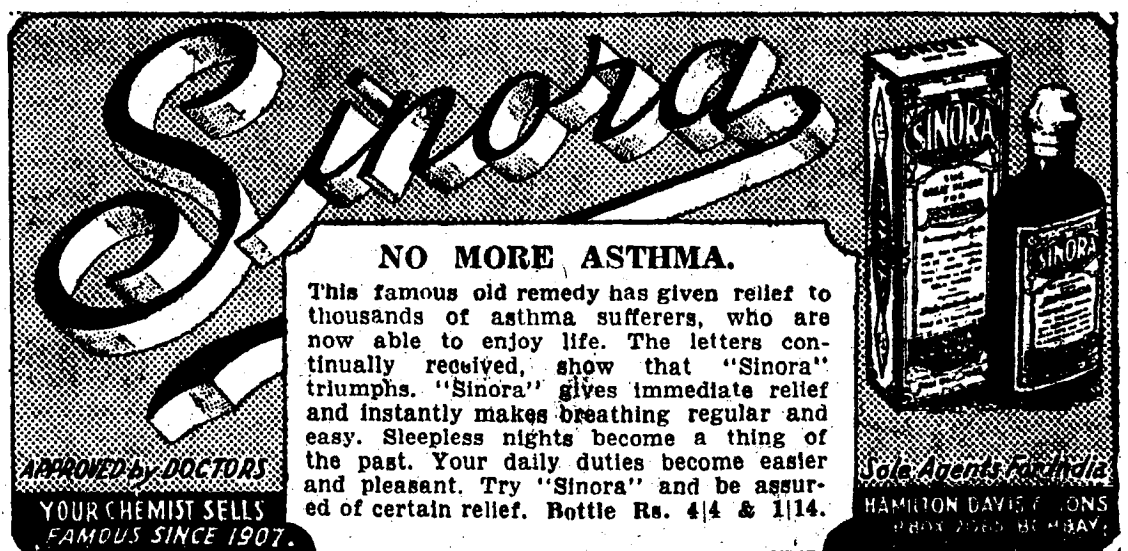
"WE have never been good at politics. Look what a mess was made of democracy between 1918 and 1932. Thirty-three different political parties, fighting tooth and nail, parliaments rowdy, bull-sessions or chatterboxes, all to the advantage of the extremists. Tell me whether an average German parliament of today shows signs of sound political judgment and sense of responsibility. Democracy won't work, because we don't know what it really is, we can't just copy, we haven't been brought up to it. It is far more important to have a strong central government at least in economic questions to solve the most urgent problems for us." The new bizonal administration at Frankfurt has painstakingly avoided appearing to be a "government," still hoping for unity and not wanting to widen the gulf.

# KAMALA MILLS FABRICS

are available in many varieties at authorised retail prices to consumers at the following places:—

1. RETAIL SHOP at the MILL PREMISES, (Tulsippe Road, Near Lower Parel).
2. GOVIND CLOTH STORES, Superbaugh Road.
3. R. CHIMANLAL & CO., Gandhi Galli, Swadeshi Market, Kalbadevi.
4. CHOTALAL PAREKH & CO., Mayor Building, 210-F, Tulsippe Road, Opp. Dadar Rly. Station, (B.B. & C.I.).
5. BENARES TRADING CO., Vithalbai Patel Road.

**KAMALA MILLS, Ltd.**  
45/47, APOLLO STREET, FORT, BOMBAY.



**Sinora**

NO MORE ASTHMA.

This famous old remedy has given relief to thousands of asthmatic sufferers, who are now able to enjoy life. The letters continually received, show that "Sinora" triumphs. "Sinora" gives immediate relief and instantly makes breathing regular and easy. Sleepless nights become a thing of the past. Your daily duties become easier and pleasant. Try "Sinora" and be assured of certain relief. Bottle Rs. 4/6 & 1/11.

AMARNATH DOCTORS  
YOUR CHEMIST SELLS  
FAMOUS SINORA