

THE SCHEME FOR A MUSEUM

July 14.

„ FORTUNE indeed seems to be smiling upon the naturalists, botanists, art lovers and bibliophiles, as represented by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby, who has been so eloquently pleading their cause. In one week they are presented with a monster fish from local waters—a truly splendid museum specimen, whatever its real name may be—and they hear of a definite scheme to acquire a combined museum, art gallery and library of a size worthy of the city. The Rotary Club is a world-wide organization which has achieved several remarkable things, chiefly, we believe, through the initiative of individual clubs, and presumably, therefore, through the initiative of individuals in the separate clubs. If the Shanghai organization be a fair sample, the ways of Rotarians are as original as they are to be admired. Staid and sober-minded men, who one would think treated everything in the world with the utmost seriousness of mien on all occasions, turn out for an hour to be just overgrown schoolboys singing riotous and absurd, but livening songs, to the beat of the

staidest of their number precariously balanced astride two chairs. Having worked themselves into a spirit of general goodwill, they then discuss serious things in all amity.

Mr. Doyle took most of his fellow members rather by surprise and when he warned them, in the picturesque language of his country, that he was going to introduce one of "the biggest things ever" they became ribald. As he explained, their mood changed and, appreciating that it was something for the real good of Shanghai, they supported him without comment. We can admire the Rotary Club for agreeing that it shall start such a big scheme and then quietly fade into the wings as just one small unit. It merely makes the suggestion and it hopes that other bodies will join with it. We can quite believe that they will do so with enthusiasm and would suggest thus early that it be made an item on the agenda for the next Ratepayers' Meeting. A few thousand taels spread over the whole community would not hit any one very hard and it is only Tls. 100,000 that are asked for as a start.

The site of the French Club is ideal for the purpose and if the museum is intended to house the joint efforts of the two Settlements, then the location is ideal also.