

as well as in their work!) ladies and gentlemen of the staff.

If approached by a collector, he would hand out dollars as cheerfully as he buys drinks for his friends or chocolates for his lady-love, but as to just sending a subscription—well, it simply is that he does not think.

Last year the number of tram accident cases was 333; this is offset by a handsome donation from the Tramway Co. The number of motor-car accident cases was 532 (practically 50 per cent. of the total number of cases due to vehicular accidents only). How about the off-set! If a certain enterprising motor insurance firm would inaugurate a policy subject to a minimum of, say, 500 applicants at Tls. 5 per annum against payment of hospital expenses for Chinese injured by motor-cars and donate the entire residue to the Hospital, I, as an owner, would for one willingly take out a policy.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,

VERAX.

Shanghai, March 3, 1922.

## ARE SHANGHAI PEOPLE SELFISH?

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Considering the community *en bloc* and not pharisaically excluding oneself, I incline to the conclusion that we are. An expression of opinion from your readers would, I think, Sir, prove of general interest.

Of a certain proportion of the community I fear the plain truth about them is that they are self-seeking, self-interested, self-centred. Of the main proportion, it seems not unjust to say that whilst passively unselfish they are not actively so. Is this estimate correct? Resulting from recent hearing, at the Rotary Club tiffin, a very illuminating *résumé* of the work of the Chinese Hospital Shantung Road by Dr. Davenport, I was moved to get, for once, out of my own selfish rut by attending the annual meeting and now, finally, your glowing and well merited tribute, in this morning's issue, to the splendidly modest and selfless labours there, has led to serious introspection on the above lines.

Whatever may be his individual view of the isms and ologies, and hair-splitting controversies, of the deplorable lack of humanitarian and civic spirit in the rank and file of the Chinese, of missionary work, and etc., the average man (usually styled the "Man in the street") is permeated with a strong impulse to humanity and pity.

Herein lies our *passive* selfishness; one would not fail personally to render aid to an ill, or injured, man in the street but not having himself *seen* a case, he does not show an *active* interest in what is done with the scores of daily accident cases.

He is hardly aware of the existence of such an hospital as Shantung Road much less of the year-in, year-out, arduous work for love of the clever, trained and very human (in their needs and desires