

MUSIC

By RICHARD ALDRICH.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's Recital.

Serge Rachmaninoff gave his second piano recital in Carnegie Hall yesterday afternoon and it was heard by a large audience. He presented a curiously assorted program, made up of one sonata and fourteen études. The sonata was Chopin's in B minor, the études included one of Schumann's youthful transcriptions of Paganini's solo violin études; four of Chopin's, four of his own, "Tableaux," Op. 33 and Op. 39, two of Liszt's and Liszt's arrangement of Paganini's "Campanella," and one each by Rubinstein and Scriabin. And he added two preludes of his own (including the best known one) and a waltz of Chopin's; also an amusing arrangement of his own of a once well known polka.

It was not, on the whole, an afternoon of great things. Mr. Rachmaninoff was said to be suffering from rheumatism in one of his hands. It had little perceptible effect on the delicacy,

power or fleetness of his playing. His performance of Chopin's sonata had the qualities that are characteristic of his art; it was self-restrained, almost introspective, rather than impulsively eloquent, but it had a true poetical strain, imagination, a finely musical quality of beauty in tone, in rhythmic articulation and in significant turn and mold of phrase. As many others have done, Mr. Rachmaninoff took the scherzo at such a pace that its contours and rhythms were all but unrecognizable. Such a negation of the function of the interpreter is seldom to be laid at his door.

In the minor pieces that filled the rest of his program Mr. Rachmaninoff's playing had much musical beauty. It was devoted intently to the interpretation of the music, and not even in the most brilliant of the pieces played was brilliancy of technique ever made to seem something existent for itself. But there were some who would have exchanged a handful of études for something of a larger flight, even while they recognized that "étude" is but a name that covers a multitude of very different kinds of things that may be excellent in many different ways.

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