

MUSIC

SYMPHONY HALL

Sergei Rachmaninoff

The great and romantic art which is Sergei Rachmaninoff's piano playing was on exhibition again at Symphony Hall yesterday afternoon, as the Russian gave the first Sunday concert in Aaron Richmond's Celebrity Series.

As usual with Rachmaninoff, the program drew entirely upon established music; there was nothing new nor was there any performance which shed new light upon old music. Rachmaninoff goes his own independent way in the choice of programs, and he is not the sort to give radically different interpretations of the same piece. A tempo may be faster or slower from one of his recitals to another; there may be minor variations in accents, but the character of his interpretations otherwise remains constant.

Yesterday he went rapidly through his own transcription of the E major Partita for unaccompanied violin, by Bach. The adagio of Beethoven's D minor Sonata, Op. 31, No. 2, was also on the fast side, and so was the Funeral March of Chopin's B-flat minor Sonata. With Beethoven and Chopin this was merely a matter of taste, but in the case of Bach the fast tempo must have contributed to the general thickness of sound. Bach ought to be done more neatly than was his well-known composition yesterday.

Sometimes Rachmaninoff can play with detached coolness. Yesterday there was warmth throughout the recital, and except in the Bach, poetry, too. Virtuosity was emphasized in four of the nine Etudes Tableaux from the pianist's own Op. 39—in B minor, E-flat, A minor and D major, and in Liszt's Tarantella, "Venice and Naples." Rachmaninoff has a way of making Liszt substantial, where others merely bring out that disputed composer's glitter. Thus it was enjoyable to hear also one of Liszt's "Forgotten Waltzes" and one of the three "Sonnets of Petrarch." The afternoon began with the "Star Spangled Banner," poorly harmonized. A capacity audience applauded rapturously and demanded encores.

C. W. D.

The United States is spending \$1175 per capita for war production.

AMUSEMENTS