

LONDON BALLAD CONCERTS.

There was a good attendance at the third London Ballad Concert of the season, held at the Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon. A feature of the proceedings was the reappearance in London of Mr. Sergei Rachmaninoff, the distinguished Russian composer and pianist, who was accorded a very hearty welcome. The artist played several of his pianoforte pieces, first heard being the poetical and often impassioned Elegie (Op. 3). This was followed by the famous Prelude in C sharp minor, of which, truth to tell, Mr. Rachmaninoff did not give a particularly impressive account. His presentation of the fanciful and showy "Humoresque" (Op. 10) was, however, extremely bright, and he afterwards dealt effectively with the sombre and mournful Prelude in F sharp minor and the forceful and sounding piece of the same description in G minor. He was heartily applauded, and had to add to his list of contributions. Six new songs were brought forward in the course of the afternoon. The best of these was the solidly-written and very vocal "Sheila," by Haydn Wood, who has been engaged to play violin solos at the next concert. It was admirably interpreted by Mr. Wilfrid Douthitt. Mr. H. Lane Wilson easily secured a favourable reception for the merry and humorous ditty, "A Short Cut," in which P. J. O'Reilly and H. Trotère have collaborated, and Miss Alice Wilna, it not in her best voice, sang Mrs. Amy Woodforde-Finden's "Willow Wand" in attractive style. Mr. A. von Ahn Carse's "In a Child's Heart," a pretty song, not far removed, however, from the commonplace, was tastefully interpreted by Miss Verena Fancourt, and the melodious but quite conventional "Silver Moon," by Stephen Adams, was fairly well sung by Mr. Ivor Walters, who has a voice of genuine tenor quality. Mr. Ivor Foster gave a spirited rendering of Sir Edward Elgar's "The Pipes of Pan," and Webbe's humorous catch, "Would you know my Celia's charms?" was capitally sung by the Westminster Singers. Much-appreciated vocal contributions were also supplied by Miss Carrie Tubb, Miss Florence Taylor, and Miss Lucy Nuttall. The duties of accompanist were once more shared by Mr. S. Liddle and Mr. F. A. Sewell.