

Week-End Music

RACHMANINOFF

Rachmaninoff began his pianoforte recital in unusual style at Queen's Hall yesterday by stopping halfway through Liszt's Variations on "Wener Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen," and sitting in an intense silence until embarrassed applause from a section of the audience relieved the situation. Whatever the cause may have been: sudden lack of interest, lapse of memory, irritation—or none of these things—he seemed throughout the first half of the recital in a restless mood, and as though unable to concentrate fully. That there were arresting details need hardly be said. Even in recreating Bach and Beethoven after his own image, Rachmaninoff's darkly imaginative intellect floods every page with a newness which enthralled if it does not satisfy. One wished only that he had allowed the arpeggios in

the first movement of the op. 31 No. 2 sonata their proper pianissimo, and that he had not conceived the Adagio as a Minuet. After the interval he played as one hoped he would do. The Minuet and Passpied from Debussy's "Suite Bergamesque," his own G. major Prelude and Oriental Sketch (1934), Liszt's "Waldesrauschen" and "Gnomonreigen"—all were inimitably done, with that vivid characterisation and supreme mastery which are his alone.

TO-DAY'S EVENTS

At 3.0 Serge Krish conducts the New Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra at the People's Palace. At 3.15 Sir Henry Wood conducts the New Symphony Orchestra at the Palladium. At 6.30 there is Chamber music at Conway Hall. At 8.30 is the Mozart concert (conductor, J. A. Westrap) at the Cambridge Theatre.