

RACHMANINOFF.

World-famed Pianist at Guildford.

As a pianist and composer, M. Rachmaninoff holds a recognised position in the front rank of musicians, and it is pleasing to note that the enterprise of Messrs. Clark, Ltd., of Guildford and Woking, in bringing such an artist to Guildford, is thoroughly appreciated. At the recital at the Borough Hall, on Monday afternoon, there was a large and fashionable audience. The programme consisted entirely of Rachmaninoff's compositions. The particular fascination of his style, the incisiveness of his methods, and his display of impulsive fancy were most pronounced in the second 'piano Sonata in B flat minor. In the matter of technical display he has methods peculiarly his own, and these were extraordinarily evident throughout the recital. The pianist gave a fine account of the famous Prelude, obtaining splendid effects of sonority, and revealing well the inherent dignity of the music. This item was one of exceptional interest to students, who were able to compare their own readings with those of the recitalist, and gain much profit thereby. After its performance, M. Rachmaninoff was greeted with quite a furor of applause, to which he gravely bowed his acknowledgments.

A number of smaller pieces, mostly of lyrical and lighter character, went to make up a programme attractive from many points of view. Especially pleasing was the charming Melodie which was enthusiastically applauded. Equally enjoyable were the Preludes, Op. 32 in G sharp minor, E major and G major, and Op. 23 in F sharp minor. The essential virility and dignity of his style were best shown in the Prelude in G minor, Op. 23, with which the pianist concluded his recital, and its effect was nowhere lessened by purely physical vehemence. M. Rachmaninoff acknowledged the vociferous applause by playing as an encore a polka, composed by his father and transcribed by himself. In their determination to place the highest musical talent of the day within easy local reach, Messrs. Clark, Ltd., are deserving of every support. At an early date, Woking patrons will have an opportunity of hearing Isolde Menges, the famous violinist, and Archy Rosenthal, the renowned pianist. Arrangements have also been made for the appearance at Guildford of equally world-famed artists.

Messrs. Clark have received a letter conveying M. Rachmaninoff's thanks for the arrangements made for his comfort and the pleasure it gave him to play to so appreciative an audience.