

MEMORABLE RECITAL BY RACHMANINOFF

FAMOUS PIANIST'S TREAT FOR DERBY AUDIENCE

Among the few artists in the world of music whose gifts have raised them to a plane of eminence above even the greatest of their contemporaries, an honoured place must be accorded to the great Russian pianist and composer, Sergei Vassilievich Rachmaninoff (to give him his full names).

It was inevitable that the Drill Hall, Derby, should be filled last night for Rachmaninoff's long-awaited recital,

and the evening provided some unforgettable experiences.

At this stage of his distinguished career I could say nothing of his playing that has not already been expressed more eloquently and authoritatively by worthier critics.

MATCHLESS BEAUTY

Let me, therefore, be content to record a performance of matchless beauty, raised far above and beyond the limits of the mere pianoforte virtuoso, infinite in its shades of expression and exquisitely controlled.

The programme for this memorable occasion had, perhaps, better be given in full. The first half of it comprised Liszt's transcription of Bach's Organ Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, Beethoven's Sonata in E major, Op. 109, and a Chopin group, Polonaise in C minor, Nocture in D flat major, Mazurka in F minor and Rondo, Op. 16.

After the interval we were given Four Etudes-Tableaux, Op. 33, by Rachmaninoff himself, Liszt's Sonetto del Petrarca in A flat major, a transcription by Brassin of the Fire-music from Wagner's "Valkyrie," and finally Liszt's Etude in E major, a transcription of one of the Paganini violon caprices.

RHYTHM AND CLARITY

From among this rich outpouring of the pianist's genius one naturally has some diffidence in singling out anything for individual comment, but a personal preference was for the Chopin pieces, the Bach, and Rachmaninoff's own Etudes-Tableaux.

The Chopin pieces especially were a revelation and a delight: I have never heard, nor do I ever expect to hear, anything more lovely. The Bach Fantasia and Fugue was played with marvellous rhythm and clarity.

It is unnecessary to add that the artist was enthusiastically acclaimed, and three encores were given, Liszt's "Liebesträume," Rimsky Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble-bee," and the famous C sharp minor Prelude.

Rachmaninoff has been reported as describing this prelude as a youthful indiscretion (it forms part, I believe, of his Op. 3, and is therefore among his earliest works). Last night it took on a new aspect, and was played at a pace which I imagine would deter the most accomplished performer.

J. P.

CORONATION CENSUS

ALVASTON AND ALLENTON COMMITTEE'S PLAN

Plans for Coronation celebrations at Alvaston and Allenton were discussed at a meeting of the organising committee held at Nunsfield House, Alvaston, last night.

Mr. C. Morley, chairman of the Parish Council, presided. It was reported that arrangements for a fancy dress parade had been left to the procession committee.

Other committees sharing in the work of organisation were the sports committee, catering committee, and census committee.

Members of the census committee, after making house to house calls, would prepare lists of old people, unemployed, and children under 15 to be invited to the Coronation teas.

It was agreed that six prizes should be allotted for the best decorated private houses and business premises in the area.

Purchase of flags and bunting for parish decorations at a cost of £30 was approved.

Other arrangements provided for the engagement of a band and the holding of a social gathering in the evening to wind up the programme of festivities.

14 FINALISTS

LOCAL ARTIST'S CHANCE TO GET "ON THE AIR"

The names of the 14 finalists in the "Radio Discoveries" contest at the Gaumont Palace, Derby, arranged by