

Rachmaninoff Is So Anxious

HE WANTS TO BE PERFECT

RACHMANINOFF, who is to play at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, to-night with the Hallé Orchestra, has rested and worked alternately since he arrived in Manchester.

When I called at the Midland Hotel to-day to see him, writes an *Evening Chronicle* representative, he was work-



Rachmaninoff.

ing at the piano in his room. He wore his dressing-gown and wanted privacy.

Rachmaninoff is naturally anxious about the performance of his new Rhapsody, which is having its first English performance to-night.

It is a brilliant work, and Rachmaninoff had a rehearsal at the hall yesterday.

He said he was pleased with the rehearsal, but felt that another to-day would help to clear up some difficulties. He was therefore working hard himself at his piano in his own room before going to the rehearsal.

He had been at work since soon after 9 a.m., and hoped to be able to continue till mid-day. He was so anxious that his work to-night should be perfect that he has spent every possible moment at the piano since he arrived in Manchester.

LIKES CITY AUDIENCES

Rachmaninoff is making an extended tour in England. Afterwards he will go for a few weeks to Spain, then after a short rest in Switzerland, he will make a five weeks' tour of South America, contrary to his usual practice of spending the summer at his villa on the shores of Lake Lucerne.

Though Rachmaninoff has visited Manchester only three or four times, he likes Manchester audiences and enjoys playing to them.