

RACHMANINOFF RECITAL

Distinguished Russian Pianist Heard at the Academy of Music

That Sergei Rachmaninoff, the distinguished Russian pianist, has not worn out his welcome was shown by the size of the audience which attended his concert at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon, when he was heard with undiminished admiration and pleasure in a programme which, although less interesting or important than some others on previous occasions, was by no means devoid of attractiveness. Perhaps the most notable of the numbers which it included was the charming "Children's Corner" suite in which an aspect of Debussy's genius different from the one with which the music-loving public is most familiar, is strikingly exemplified. Here are none of those original harmonic combinations and atmospheric effects by which Debussy's music is chiefly

characterized. The movements of this suite are all clear and simple, as befits the subjects with which they are associated, and they are much more tuneful than Debussy usually cared to be.

Other things on the list were the masterly arrangement made by Busoni of the Bach "Chaconne," Schumann's fanciful and charming "Papillons" and two "Etudes Tableaux" by the pianist himself. Chopin was represented by a "Nocturne" and "Polonaise," and that ultra modern composer, Scriabine, by a "Poeme" and an "Etude." The remaining selections were a "Novelle" by Medtner, a valse by Tschikowsky and a gopak by Mousseorgsky. It can hardly be necessary to say with what good taste and technical brilliancy and appreciative expression these things were done. Of the great pianists now before the public, Rachmaninoff is one of the most satisfying and sympathetic. He is an artist who always plays with an absolute sincerity of sentiment and with a thorough understanding of the music which he is interpreting, and whose only thought it is to communicate the ideas of the composer whose music he is interpreting. Of anything like self-assertion, his performance shows no trace. He was clamorously applauded, and to have granted all the demands that were made for encores would have doubled the length of his programme.