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The appearance here, last Wednes day evening, of Sergei Rachmaninof pianist, under the auspices of the Ne Britain Musical club, was hailed a the most successful of this season' musical affair by critics who follo such events. His work was describe as the best instrumental performanc yet heard in the city, not exceptin that of Harold Bauer. The master' program was characterised as bein of especial brilliance and of wide ap peal. The following account, writte for the Herald by an accomplishe pianist and a faithful critic, is re printed:

Beginning his program under handicap caused by draughts acros the stage, necessitating the droppin of a protection curtain after the firs group, the musician warmed to hi work which culminated triumphant ly in the spectacular and popula "Beautiful Blue Danube," Strauss Schulz-Evler. The first group, com positions of Chopin, brought muc sincere applause, the "Valse" in A flat, proving especially delightful. I this work, often played by other grea pianists, Rachmaninoff'c graceful in terpretation of the ending, displaye what many characterized as a marke superiority over other noted artists In the "Nocturne" there was a depth of tone and feeling which vividly reflected the composer in his more thoughtful moods. It was played more slowly than one is accustomed to hear it, and the reverie of the twilight hours, with the great composer alone with his instrument, was the theme that impressed.

Schumann's "Carnival," the following number, gave the musician a splendid opportunity to display the brilliantly appealing quality of his touch and the work of the composer. Noteworthy in this performance was the really wonderful speed of execution of the climatic "Marche des Davidsbundler contre des Philistines," never reached by most pianists in their playing of this composition. In it were moments of striking similarity to the previously played "Polonaise," Chopin, in which "Poland Triumphant" is pictured—a dream always very real to the composer but which he did not live to realize.

Students were especially interested in Rachmaninoff's own "Prelude, C-sharp," which closed the third group. This together with the "Minuet" and "Liebesleid" brought out the musician's delicacy of conception and perfection of execution to a marked degree and presented an example of skill the students of the instrument will not forget.

The enthusiasm of the final number, "Beautiful Blue Danube," was so marked that the musician was compelled reluctantly to respond to an encore, playing the picturesque "Juggleress;" Moszkowski, with splendid skill despite the cold which annoyed him considerably.

It seemed scarcely credible that M. Rachmaninoff did himself full justice last evening, handicapped as he was by the wearing of adhesive tape on two of his fingers where the incessant playing of the concert tour had broken the nails from the flesh. But no excuses were offered and the excellence of his work made it evident that none were needed. Again the New Britain Musical club has staged what amounted to an achievement. Mr Rachmaninoff's expressed wish to play in this city again is enthusiastically reciprocated by all who heard him.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's program was:

a Fantasy
b) Ballade
c) Valse
d) Nocturne
e) Polonaise ..... Chopin
Carnaval ..... Schumann
Preamble, Pierrot, Arlequin, Valse noble, Eusebius, Florestan, Papillons, Lettres dansantes, Chiarina, Chopin, Estrella, Reconnaissance Pantalon et Colombine, Valse allemande, Paganini, Promenade, Pause, Marche des Davidsbundler contre les Philistines.
a) Minuet ..... Bizet-Rachmaninoff
b) Liebesleid Kreisler-Rachmaninoff
c) Prelude, C-sharp minor.....
..... Rachmaninoff
Beautiful Blue Danube .....
..... Strauss-Schulz-Evler

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