

money they have been spending with the economical self-restraint of a drunken sailor.

A Manhattan tailor is fined \$15 for flirting with a policewoman. It would take nine tailors to get away with that sort of thing. An error of taste and an error of judgment deserved discouragement.

Governor Smith has proclaimed an "Industrial Safety Day" for January 16. A holiday for the skyscraper window washers and the steel frame building riveters is an obvious incident of the occasion.

#### RACHMANINOFF'S RECITAL

At the Brooklyn Academy last evening a recital of piano music was given that easily topped any event of its kind this season. The artist was Rachmaninoff, who appeared under the auspices of the Institute of Arts and Sciences, Rachmaninoff, deserving certainly of Harold Bauer's title of "master pianist," is in the mastery of his instrument second to none. If there are others of more spectacular fame, whose names are more frequently heard in the talk of the day, it is because they are distinguished by certain individual characteristics, mannerisms of personality or of interpretation, but not because they excel the Russian in technical or artistic powers. Rachmaninoff's sobriety, his reserve, both in his personal manner and in his performance, does not make for that publicity which forms so great a part of many a sensational reputation. First of all an artist, those little panderings to the public taste—the exaggerated gesture, the eccentricities of appearance—are not included on his program. It is the music, and not Rachmaninoff, that counts. So great is his reverence for his art that to take liberties with it for the mere value of sensationalism can not be thought of.

Rachmaninoff's program for the evening was identical with that presented some days ago at Carnegie Hall. Bach's Second English Suite was the first number, played with such rhythmic incisiveness and clarity that one wished for more Bach interpreters like this Russian master. The contrapuntal dullness that can be Bach's when played by the inept or inferior artist did not intrude on this magnificent performance. Mendelssohn, fast becoming a pianistically obsolete composer, was represented by the "Variations Serieuses," also admirably played. Chopin's "Tuberose" Nocturne lacked richness of coloring and was, if possible, a trifle dry. The fault was with Rachmaninoff, whose artistic austerity occasionally blinds him to the poetic beauties of Chopin's music. Far better than the Nocturne was the Scherzo in C sharp minor, one of the Polish composer's most tremendous compositions.

But it was in the grandiose death song of Liszt's, the "Funerailles," that the pianist especially distinguished himself. One of the most poignant and arresting pages in all piano literature is this wonderful funeral piece. It, together with the "Medito Valse," the B minor Sonata and one or two other works, represents Liszt's high-water mark as a writer for the piano. Its technical difficulties are enormous, and the octave passage in the base that thunders out toward the end—so like a similar passage in Chopin's A Minor Polonaise—is surely a test of endurance. Rachmaninoff's performance was special. The last drop of heroic grief was wrung from the music by an artist to whom technical difficulties are as nothing.

A group of the pianist's own compositions—two Etudes and an ar-

rangement of Moussorgsky's popular "Hopak" came next and Liszt's "Rhapsodie Espagnole" brought the printed program to a close.

EDWARD CUSHING.

#### RECITAL BY MISS MURRAY

Marie Stapleton Murray, soloist of First Church of Christ, New York ave. and Dean st., gave a recital under the auspices of the Washington Heights Musical Club last night at the Plaza Hotel, Manhattan. Louis Baker Phillips was at the piano and his "Spring Song," an interesting lyric, was sung. French group included "Plazir d'Amour," "Danson la Gigue," "L'Absence" and "Toujours," by Martini, Poldowski, Berlioz and Tours, respectively. Three songs by Brahms, and Strauss' "Cecilia," gave the German group emphasis. Donaudy's "O del mio Amato ben," and "Freschi luoghi praeli audenti," with "La Suleidie," from "La Gioconda," were the songs in Italian, which Miss Murray sang, the last named with much dramatic fervor. Russian music was represented by "The Steppe," by Gretchaninoff, and there were, besides, songs in English.

#### BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION.

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

Your editorial of Dec. 6 entitled "Birth Control Again" emphasizes the decision of Judge Crane of the Court of Appeals in 1918 as a basis for the establishment of the clinic now being conducted by the organization of which Mrs. Sanger is president.

The Judge's decision is quoted as authorizing the giving of contraceptive instruction to cure or prevent disease. The State of New York has had this kind of authorization for 37 years previous to the decision of Judge Crane. It was given by the statute of 1881, by which physicians are released from the penalties of the obscenity law if they give prescriptions or instructions for the cure or prevention of disease. Judge Crane simply referred to the existing law and his decision created no new factor in the legal status of birth control information.

MARY WARE DENNETT,

Director Voluntary Parenthood League,  
New York, Dec. 10, 1923.

#### SOME EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

(New Haven Journal-Courier.)

The Treasury Department, in response to Senator Borah's inquiry, says France owes United States \$3,817,325,947. Mr. Borah lives too far from the Atlantic coast and from the recent war to be entrusted with this obligation, which bears some resemblance to the expense account of a kind neighbor who takes a crazy man that has been impeding the street to the security of an asylum.

#### ONE OR THE OTHER.

(Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.)

If the Government doesn't collect surtaxes from prosperous residents of colder regions, Florida will—and we are for Florida.

#### WORSE YET.

(Birmingham News.)

The man who marries his stenographer soon discovers that there are more pleasant vocations than taking dictation.

#### MELODIOUS EUROPE.

(San Francisco Chronicle.)

Deficits promote harmony in the concert of nations, even though the sharp notes fall flat.

#### THOSE TERRIBLE WOLVES.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The annual wolf story season is ushered in gratifyingly enough by the report that three large wolves were killed by four dogs.