

GENTLEMEN'S CONCERTS.

The appearance of Rachmaninoff, the great Russian pianist, in Manchester, is a musical event of the first importance. Like his compatriot, Rubinstein, with his Valse Caprice and Melody in F, Rachmaninoff has had the good fortune to compose a celebrated Prelude in C sharp minor, which is played all over the civilised world, both by—more or less—willing fingers and by mechanism, electric or otherwise.

The playing of this piece by the composer yesterday must have astonished many people who fancied they had the authoritative rendering, as in many respects the interpretation was very different from that generally accepted. The style of Mr. Rachmaninoff is full of individuality, combining the finest delicacy with an irresistible impetuosity and energy, and his compositions have more intrinsic value than the majority of great pianists who have written much for their instrument. At the Halle Concert to-night we shall have the opportunity to hear him in music of a larger scale, in which no doubt his boundless energy will find wider scope.

Miss Esta D'Ango gave an interesting selection of songs by Wolf-Ferrari, Max Fiedler, and other modern writers. Her voice has of late gained much in volume, and in addition to her natural flexibility she has developed a rare sense of characterisation which gives distinction to her lieder singing.