

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Mrs. W. Y. Morgan.

Of course, the Rachmaninoff concert was "over our heads."

But it was over, like the stars that shine at night, like the moon in all its glory, way, way beyond our reach, but lifting us up by their beauty and light.

And Rachmaninoff lifted his audience up last night.

And that is real art.

At no place did he allow any element of self to creep into his program.

He came onto the platform without ostentation, and he left it amid tremendous applause, in the same manner.

His program was the most wonderfully executed one that has ever been my joy to hear.

I felt when it was over as though I had looked upon a beautiful sunset impossible to describe, and had felt the power of and beyond, man alone.

And when I listened to the great, great artist, I thought of the columns it would take to list his achievements.

I thought of his great work as a pianist, his great work as a composer, his great skill as a conductor of orchestras and opera, and then I watched his sincerity play its part as he found himself here with a small audience, and a drop curtain so terrible that it would have checked an artist of less ability and determination.

Rachmaninoff is not only an artist, but he is a splendid workman, and what we heard him do last night is only the result of years and years of applied energy, plus, of course, that something he has that we plain folks call art.

Rachmaninoff is now forty-seven years old, or will be next Saturday. He has come to our country to stay until his own torn homeland is restored again.

He has been able to add the interest of our greatest musicians to his store of artistic achievements, which is no small thing to do.

And though he can never know it, he has added the audience he had last night to his list of friends, for he brought them joy and beauty, and he left them with memories of it, which nothing can ever take away.

And so I list this concert as one of the proper efforts for the City Beautiful plan—and the club that brought him here, as one of the valuable assets for such a plan.