

## At the Concert

(Concluded from page 20.)

demonstrated his capacity for playing Bach, which he again illustrated by his masterful handling of the Organ Prelude and Fugue in A Minor. Seitz has a basic affinity for Bach, and a different style in his interpretation from many other Bach players; notably different from the poetics of Grainger or the dynamics of Ham-bourg. As a Chopin exponent he excels in all the technical necessities, in the rhythmic nuances, in tone-color of individual passages, in faultless phraseology and fine energetic restraint. This sonata in B minor was the sonata which he played at his inaugural recital two years ago in Massey Hall. Since that performance he has noticeably broadened his style and augmented his mastery of poetic idioms. He did it with insight and authority. What he lacked in part of the sonata at least was to a great extent what Chopin composed it for—atmosphere. Without that, some of the passages in the Largo are rather insignificant. His first group of short pieces were agreeable novelties by Schutt, Lindoff, Arensky and Liszt. Seitz excels in individual tone-pictures such as these, and he made the most of the peculiar idioms and tone-coloring in each. In the final group, Nocturne by Chopin, Gavotte by Niemann, a Moskowski Barcarolle and Rubenstein's Etude on False Notes he displayed some of his best and most enduring qualities. The old Biblical injunction, "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth," was beautifully disregarded. Seitz's right and left are a perfect *bonne entente*. There were many passages in which runs for the right hand would have made many a player yearn for a back-action glissando. Seitz seems to delight in hitting every note as it comes up. No matter how small, he hits it. Not one of them is missed. The left hand is kept studiously in control so that the right-hand run has a chance to hang itself in the picture-gallery of the ear like a string of diamonds against a dark background. There were many proofs on this compact programme that Seitz in becoming a pedagogue has not neglected his career as a virtuoso.

SOME sorts of organ music are for all the world like getting a nice aesthetic hair-cut at the barber's. No instrument is better qualified than the organ to lull one to a sort of blissful half sleep and suddenly to lift you by the bang of the tubas into a desire to rush off to a fire. Contrasts like these are advisable only in the case of an artist occupying the console. In his recent recital at the Convocation Hall, one of the regular series, Mr. Richard Tattersall gave such a programme. His two modern French things were responsible for almost putting me to sleep even when I could hear every murmur of the invisible mirages. His treatment of the Prelude and Fugue was eminently satisfactory. This Bach number is becoming familiar. Is it as big as its devotees insist? The Scherzo from the Widor Symphony was a fine inspirational bit of work.

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