

Infer-Ocean

Studebaker Hall.

12-10-98

Leopold Godowsky was the soloist of a piano recital given by the Chicago conservatory at Studebaker hall last evening. The talented artist, who is a resident of this city, was heard to good advantage in a programme of varied selections, including compositions of his own. The Wagner-Liszt "Tannhauser" overture was perhaps the most enjoyable number. Mr. Godowsky has made this his "battle-horse," as Mendelssohn called the concert work that came with greatest ease to his hand, and the careful study he has given it shows in tone and technique. This pianist has developed splendid technical resources, particularly in finger work. While he may lack in the grasp of a big composition as a whole, and so fall short of completely satisfying interpretation, his phrasing is so good that the listener is carried easily forward to a satisfactory close.

Mr. Godowsky does not always use the pedal to the betterment of the effect of the work in hand. But he is so thorough in his method, so sincere in effort toward advancement, that with the study of the years that he can spare (he is a young man) he should achieve the heights of his art. His own productions are replete with delicate grace and beauty of sentiment. Of the four he played, the "Valse-Idylle" pleased from its delicacy of feeling. The Chopin arrangement, "Badinage," is a clever work. Slight in its texture, the hearer would say, while the accomplished musician would find it workmanlike and scholarly. The audience was large and warmly responsive to the player's successes.