

# THINGS HERE AND THERE

## GODOWSKY IN BERLIN.

The successes of Mr. Godowsky in Berlin, at his three recitals in October, was as remarkable as that of the previous year. He still retains the rather bad habit of making his programs very long; this is occasionally a strain upon less differentiated hearers, but it has the compensation of illustrating the genius of the player in a great variety of masterly directions. At his first recital, for instance, he played Beethoven's sonata, op. 81, the Brahms sonata in F minor, a lot of Chopin and so on.

The second opened with the Tschaikevsky sonata in G minor, followed by a charming Brahms number (rhapsody in B minor, scherzo in E flat minor), two of the Schubert-Liszt songs, the whole of the Kreisleriana of Schumann, and several lighter pieces, including his own arrangements of Henselt's "If I Were a Bird" and the "Invitation to the Dance" by Weber.

The third program opened with the Mendelssohn prelude and fugue in E minor, a piece which Mr. Godowsky plays to perfection; the Davidsbueundler of Schumann (which no one else plays so well), the Grieg Ballade, and six of his own studies after Chopin, including several of those which are still unpublished, yet exquisitely beautiful. The whole concluded with Balakirev's "Islamey." This program is of an unpleasant difficulty, the highly artistic and the most advanced virtuosity being mingled all through in so subtle a manner as to place the critic under an unusual difficulty in properly classifying it as a whole.

It seems to be pretty well established in Europe now that Mr. Godowsky stands not only in the front rank, but properly speaking at the very head of the procession of great pianists; and the best is that he richly deserves the position, by genius, industry and rare personal qualities.