



G. E. Jones, photo,

Auck'and.

Mr Edward Branscombe, Director of the Westminster Abbey Concert Company.

either—that the wiles of the stage villain and the trials of stage heroes and heroines only plunge them into merriment. With the bulk of human folk it is different. The melodrama is to these as real and absorbing as a novel by Mr. Guy Boothby or Mr. Fergus Hume, and the box-office must consider such matters, even though critics squirm.

Elaborate stage sets, beautiful scenes, mechanical effects in which art is most efficiently employed to conceal art, and the engagement of actors and actresses of more than

ordinary capacity—these are the special merits that entitle Mr. Anderson to the success he has won. In his company are several young New Zealanders and Australians, who have made their way to the front ranks by conscientious study and hard work. Mr. Plimmer and his wife may serve to typify this class.

Mr. Harry Plimmer is a Maori-lander of the third generation. He is a grandson of that excellent old colonist, Mr. John Plimmer, a non-ogenarian who claims to be the