



ULLA JACOBSSON, FOLKE SUND-
QUIST

formly pointless crudity of the recent
unfortunate *affaire Spillane*.

DECEMBER NIGHT

(Discina-Paris)

THE moral that might be drawn from
December Night is that not every-
thing the French do is good—which is
hardly, you might say, a discovery. I
wouldn't have liked not to see this film
if only because of a very good perform-
ance by Pierre Blanchard—remember
him in *Pastoral Symphony*?—as a con-
cert pianist who loses the woman he
loves and years later falls in love with
his young protégé's sweetheart, who re-
sembles her. As a matter of fact, these
other parts are quite well filled, too, by
less-known French players. There's some
good acting, then, and even some very
good sequences; but the whole is some-
how marred by lapses that seemed to me
almost novelettish.



AS a typical "young-man-about-town"
at the turn of the century, Sir
Compton Mackenzie (above) knew well
the songs, shows, dances and personali-
ties of the Edwardian variety stage. He
has recalled some of them for the enter-
tainment of listeners in two BBC pro-
grammes entitled *Beaux and Belles*. In
the first programme the famous Edward-
ian musical-comedy star Ada Reeve,
now in her eighties, shares his reminis-
cences, and even sings some of her fa-
vorite songs, among them "Men" from
Three Little Maids. The second pro-
gramme Mackenzie shares with the
famous Ellaline Terriss (Lady Hicks),
now also in her eighties. *Beaux and
Belles* will be heard in *Sunday Show-*
case on August 22 and 29 at 9.35 p.m.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 13, 1954.

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