

NUTRITIONAL WEDDING

(Written for "The Listener" by Dr. Muriel Bell, Nutritionist to the Health Dept.)

EVER since the Technical Commission of the Health Organisation of the League of Nations met in 1935, and Mr. Bruce, the Australian delegate, put up a plea for the "marriage of health and agriculture," nutritionists have had this nuptial aim, subsequently expressed at several conferences. For instance, the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May, 1943, to which New Zealand sent several representatives, consisted of delegates from 43 nations. They accepted the principle that governments individually and internationally must take over the responsibility for seeing that the people of the world have an opportunity to obtain the food necessary for health, and that agricultural policies should be directed towards this end. It expanded the idea of the Atlantic Charter, of creating a state of affairs that would mean freedom from hunger and freedom from want. The deliberations formulated by the Hot Springs Conference were to the effect that each would convey to its own government certain recommendations, briefly summarised as follows:

"During the period of critical shortage in the aftermath of war, freedom from hunger can be achieved only by urgent

and concerted efforts to economise consumption, to increase supplies and distribute them to the best advantage.

"There has never been enough food for the health of all people. This is justified neither by ignorance nor by the harshness of nature. Production of food must be greatly expanded; we now have the knowledge of the means by which this can be done.

"The first cause of hunger and malnutrition is poverty. It is useless to produce more food unless men and nations provide the markets to absorb it. There must be an expansion of the whole world economy to provide the purchasing power sufficient to maintain an adequate diet for all. With full employment in all countries, enlarged industrial production, the absence of exploitation, an increasing flow of trade within and between countries, an orderly management of domestic and international investment and currencies, and sustained internal and international economic equilibrium, the food which is produced can be made available to all people.

"The primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health; steps to this end are for national determination. But each nation can fully achieve its goal only if all work together."

To anyone who, like myself, saw something of mining towns in England and Wales during the depression, and beheld the grocers' shops with displays, not of New Zealand butter, but of all grades of margarine (then non-vitaminised) the truth of this last statement is obvious. One felt alike an ache for the New Zealand farmer unable at that time to sell his butter, and for the miner who needed the vitamin A to prevent the industrial eye disease of nystagmus.

RHEUMATISM, ARTHRITIS AND ALLIED AILMENTS DEFINITELY RELIEVED ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

● Thoroughly reliable Remedy, "DOLANT" used by thousands with real results. Send only 9/- (postage paid) for month's treatment.—R. B. Lake, Chemist, Addington, Christchurch.

(continued from previous page)

a dream. Surprise, kiddies! Nothing to worry your little heads about any more!

This dream device is as ingeniously handled as the rest of the picture. But it is a crashing anti-climax, out of keeping with the realistic mood of the melodrama. The suspense fizzles out as if the cap had been jerked off a bottle of pop. You may feel relieved, but it is impossible not to feel deflated. I suppose it is unreasonable, but I rather object to being treated so obviously as a child when I go to the movies.

PAN-AMERICANA (RKO-Radio)

THIS is another of those films which Hollywood is currently producing to encourage the spirit of good-neighbourliness with the Latin-American countries. It describes the experiences, mostly amatory and highly scenic, of a group of journalists from a pictorial magazine in the States who are collecting material for a special number on South America. To judge by this and other films of the type, what the U.S.A. is chiefly interested in is the noise made by its neighbours: the film consists largely of song-and-dance numbers held together rather precariously by wisecracks and lovers' quarrels, and punctuated throughout by the itchy, wriggling rhythm of the rumba, samba, and similar hot-blooded dances. But it can at least be said that this kind of noise is a vast improvement on swing, and also that, thanks to the personalities of Phillip Terry and Audrey Long, even the love passages do not seem as dreary and endless as they are in most of these Hollywood-conducted musical tours.

TO THE SHORES OF IWO JIMA

(U.S. Navy-Warner Bros.)

IF you want to gain some idea of what war in the Pacific is like, make an effort to see this picture if you are given the chance: I mean if it is generally released (I saw it at a special preview). It is not a feature; just a 20-minute or so record, in colour, of the toughest fight ever waged by the U.S. Marine Corps. Human ingenuity and skill have gone into the assembling and editing of the film taken by the cameramen with the invaders of Iwo Jima, just as human skill and ingenuity went into the planning and execution of the attack itself—the gathering of the great armada of ships, men, and material, the dovetailing of the various operations, and so on. But the chief impression likely to be left on you is one of inhumanity. Hollywood has never been able to contrive war scenes like these, and yet there is a sense in which Hollywood war scenes appear more real than this actual record of events. There are times—for instance, as you look down from a plane on the serried pattern of wakes left in the sea by the hundreds of landing barges, and as you watch an artillery duel at night—when you feel you are looking at an impressionist painting by a madman. This film makes plain what other documentaries have suggested: that modern mechanised war, in its final analysis, has gone beyond human drama and even beyond individual heroism, and has become cataclysmic in scope—a machine-made inferno of destruction in which the activities of the human creatures involved are as irrelevant and as impersonal as the scurrings of a nest of slaters disturbed under a board. When the medievalists imagined hell, they could have been thinking of Iwo Jima.

USE SHELL MOTOR OIL

You can be sure of SHELL

THE SHELL COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
[INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND]