

Upbringing of Children

(Following is the sixth of a series of weekly articles on post-war planning. Comments from readers are invited. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Tweed Daily).

(BY J. J. ORLOV).

If good intentions are a proof of bad performances, then this rising clamour for "social-reconstruction" is a proof that we ourselves, our parents and our grandparents before us, have failed in some vital aspects affecting our social relations.

Social reconstruction implies faulty social relations, as existing at present, and a radical improvement therein. In other words, an improvement in human nature.

Difficult, but not impossible.

Human nature is a peculiar mixture of ideas and ideals, habits and standards, likes and dislikes, all imbibed into us throughout the whole life, since earliest childhood. Our character being mainly formed in our young days, it follows that if the influences we are exposed to are preponderantly right a nice sort of a person will grow up, if not so right, well . . . we are not so hot.

we are not so not.

So it seems that if our start on this "social reconstruction" is to be sound, we will have to consider our possible shortcomings, as parents.

In the past, when life was still patriarchal to a degree, grandparents actively helped, from their experience, in the upbringing of children. The trend of independence in our lives often resents "interference" from parents, yet we have created but little to replace the loving experience that used to be available in the upbringing of children.

Of course, we learn wisdom with age and experience, but until we do the character formation of our children (and of ourselves, also) may possibly suffer. This is probably but one very common adverse factor in creation of our characters. Another one is a wrong kind of education.