

HOMES ARE GREENHOUSES WHERE CITIZENS ARE STARTED

CHILDREN REALLY DO NEED SPECIAL CARE

Presented by Mrs. Thos. James, Perth Ontario at a WI meeting.

In my work I see so many little blossoms and flowers that have a good beginning in life and other little seedlings that have been left to mature on their own.

Life begins in the home. The little seed that grew from love had its beginning in a family greenhouse. What happens to the little seed before it is placed in the garden to mature on its own — in my case, before the little one arrives at school, is so very important.

A plant that appears in the earth will usually grow and develop with a little food and sunshine. A child will grow also (physically if it is fed, clothed and kept warm.)

But to have a good plant we need a little more. Is it the greenthumb idea? I don't think our children grow with this idea. It is not luck that develops a well-balanced kid. Just as it takes a little extra on our part to produce prize-winning plants we need to give extra for a good start with our children.

Have you heard the saying "talk to your plants and they will grow better?" This is one lesson I would like all parents to think more about.

Television is so convenient, we often forget this necessary part of bringing up our family. So many little ones are lacking in their language development and so many teenagers say they cannot talk to their parents and visa versa. Let's talk to little Rose and listen too.

Gardeners who have to care for many plants take pride in their work. They can watch their little plants develop

and feel so proud of all their work and time they spend with them. Parents should be proud of their efforts too. Do we take time to pull away the little weeds that may overcome our children. Do we help stake up their courage or confidence if they start to wilt or droop?

Greenhouses need organization for best results. Garden plants are in one place, flowers another, bushes another. This organization helps to control lighting, heating etc. and produce better plants. It is also less work for the gardener to look after all his plants of one variety before caring for others. A child who has had an established routine knows he will get supper at 6.00 pm. bath at 7 and bed at 8.00 pm, is happier. Mother has less work if she doesn't have to fight with her child.

When plants are arranged in a garden they can work together for cross pollination, example apple blossoms. Other flowers can be planted with vegetable to help control bugs. Those who understand natural foods and herbs can produce a garden that doesn't need chemicals or pesticides. The plants work together to improve themselves.

A family that does things together need not look to outside activities for interest either. Children who live in the country have so many more things to do as a family — looking after animals, chores, gardening — even visiting with the family, going to church together — going shopping. All help bring this togetherness so necessary for a good family.

And now to return to my topic — school is like the garden where children have matured and are put out to finish developing on their own. With the inspiration of overheating of the sun (teacher) the problems of rain, soil, etc, will they survive? Will these plants develop into good citizens? Will they take first prize or will they even be good enough to exhibit?

Let us remember these seedlings were started in the greenhouses, our own homes.



BEL FOUNTAIN-ROCKSIDE W I, PEEL NORTH DISTRICT entertained former members at a 75th Anniversary get together. Mrs. Ellis Lester, President cut the birthday cake assisted by Mrs. J. C. MacMillan, a member for the last 66 years.