

In Memoriam



Each new issue of the "Blue Jay" in its smart new booklet form brings two thoughts to mind: first, how pleased Mrs. Priestly would be if she could see how well the "Blue Jay" is being carried on; second, what a debt we owe to Mrs. Priestly for the sound manner in which she founded and developed our bulletin.

Several leading naturalists have said that the "Blue Jay" has a quality of freshness and interest not achieved by any other publication. This unique characteristic originated with Mrs. Priestly, who did not confine herself to printing scientific records or general observations alone, but struck a happy balance between the two. Mrs. Priestly stressed the contribution to nature study that could be made by the amateur, and many of our members will remember the impetus they received from her friendly encouragement.

She was born, Isabel M. Adnams, in Newbury, Berks, England, on July 25, 1895. Previous to her marriage in 1918 to Robt. J. Priestly (then serving with the Canadian Army), she had been studying for a botanical research degree and had studied botany in England, Germany and Switzerland. Following residence in Winnipeg and Calgary the family moved to Yorkton in 1935.

The first issue of the "Blue Jay" was published in the fall of 1942, when Mrs. Priestly took the lead in organizing the Yorkton Natural History Society. She remained as president as well as "Blue Jay" editor, until her death, on April 23, 1946.

On this, our bulletin's tenth anniversary, it is only right that we honor the memory of its founder, Mrs. Priestly. No more fitting tribute could be paid than the continue improvement and success of our "Blue Jay."