

ready to put at the disposal of his colleagues. As a teacher he was admirable, and while professor at Cairo did a great deal in many ways for his Egyptian pupils, who regarded him with real affection. His industry was incessant, but did not interfere with his unusual degree of generosity and hospitality.

In 1907 he married Essie Winifred (who survives him), a daughter of William Johnston, of Bromborough, Cheshire. She assisted in the preservation of the necklaces and other pieces of jewellery found in the tomb of Tutankhamun.

BATTISCOMBE GUNN

### Dr. James Colvin

DR. J. COLVIN, senior lecturer in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, University of Leeds, who died suddenly on September 5, at the age of forty-seven, had been a member of the staff of the Department since 1927. He was a graduate of the

University of Liverpool and went to Leeds in 1925 to do research work under Prof. R. Whytlaw-Gray; he joined the academic staff at Leeds two years later.

Before 1939 Dr. Colvin worked on the kinetics of reactions in the solid state, particularly the dissociation of salt hydrates; during the War he was occupied with research for the Government, and more recently he returned to the study of salt hydrate decompositions. He was a brilliant teacher, and will be remembered with affection by generations of former students for his sympathetic understanding of their difficulties, academic and otherwise.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. A. H. HALL, C.B., C.B.E., formerly chief superintendent of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, on September 11, aged seventy-three.

Prof. August KROGH, For.Mem.R.S., emeritus professor of zoophysiology in the University of Copenhagen, aged seventy-four.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Frederick Ives Medal of the Optical Society of America:

Dr. G. R. Harrison

THE Frederick Ives Medal for distinguished work in optics has been awarded by the Optical Society of America to Dr. George R. Harrison, dean of science in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Harrison, who is fifty-one, was born in San Diego, California, and graduated from Stanford University. After rising to become associate professor of physics at Stanford, he joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as professor of physics in 1930 and was appointed dean of the School of Science in 1942. As professor of physics, and during 1930-42 as director of the Research Laboratory of Physics at the Institute, Dr. Harrison has won wide recognition for his achievements in spectroscopy and studies of atomic structure, much of which was valuable in developments associated with the Second World War. He has made especially notable contributions in the fields of spectral line intensities, photometry and vacuum spectroscopy, and with his wide background of scientific research he is known as a leader in applying advances in modern physics to industrial development. Under his guidance the spectroscopy laboratory of the Institute has become an important centre of technological research and has produced tools of great value for investigations in modern physics. For his achievements in this field Dr. Harrison was in 1939 awarded the Rumford Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. During the War he was chief of the Optics Division of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and later he became chief of the research section at General MacArthur's headquarters. In recognition of his services he was awarded the Medal of Freedom and the Presidential Medal of Merit.

### A. J. Corda (1809-49)

BORN at Liberec in north-east Bohemia, August Josef Corda began a remarkable scientific career as a pharmacist's assistant. He attracted the attention of Prof. Kumbholz, who gave him a microscope and arranged for his further education. As early as 1826 Corda succeeded in germinating certain moss and

fungal spores and made elaborate drawings of these cultivated cryptogams. He came into prominence for his medical work during the 1832 cholera epidemic, and this brought him to the notice of some German naturalists who gave him an opportunity to study cycads at Berlin. At the Breslau congress of doctors and naturalists in 1833, he gave an account of his work on *Cycas*, pointing to its links with higher cryptogams. Back in Bohemia, he was engaged to study the specialized algal and other flora of Karlsbad hot springs. Always fighting poverty, Corda's work was handicapped by his indifferent health; his main income was the stipend as curator of the Bohemian National Museum and the money he received from Count Kaspar Sternberg (president of the Museum Society) for his share in such tasks as examining fossils from the West Bohemian coal measures, described in Sternberg's "Flora der Vorwelt" (1837). Corda's most important work was "Icones Fungorum", printed in parts between 1837 and 1854, and thus completed by other botanists. Here, too, the most valuable feature was Corda's splendid illustrations. His ability to draw rapidly and accurately led to his being sent by some Bohemian patrons of science to Texas and elsewhere to collect specimens for the Museum. His ship, the *Victoria*, sank on the return voyage during a storm in the West Indies in September 1849, and Corda perished at the early age of forty.

### Orientation of Lund Cathedral

A LECTURE on "The Orientation of the Cathedral of Lund", which was delivered by Hans Erlandsson at the Observatory of Lund on May 23, 1946, has been published by the Observatory in "Historical Notes and Papers", No. 21. In the donation letter of Canute, May 21, 1085, St. Lawrence was chosen as the patron saint of the cathedral at Lund, and the document of the consecration festival, September 1, 1145, says that the cathedral was built in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Lawrence, so that the name of St. Mary must be considered in dealing with the question of the orientation of the building. The late C. V. L. Charlier's investigations in 1900 suggested that the axis of the cathedral was