

*Patents of Invention.*

Office can not  
respond to  
certain in-  
quiries.

**16.** The office can not respond to inquiries as to the probability of an alleged invention being patented in advance of an application for a patent; nor to inquiries founded on brief or imperfect descriptions, propounded with a view of ascertaining whether alleged improvements have been patented, nor unless the name of the patentee and, as nearly as possible, the date of the patent be given; nor can it act as an expounder of the Patent Law, nor as counsellor for individuals, except as to questions within the office.

In order to avoid unnecessary explanations and useless loss of time and labor, it is particularly recommended that reference be made to the law before writing on any subject to the Patent Office.

A copy of the rules with a particular section marked, sent to any person making an inquiry, will be deemed a respectful answer by the Office.

Proceedings,  
how facili-  
tated.

**17.** It is desirable, in the interest both of the applicant and of the public service, that the papers and drawings should be prepared by competent persons, as despatch and regularity in the proceedings will be thereby promoted.

Transactions  
to be in writ-  
ing.

**18.** All business with this office should be transacted in writing. The action of the office will be based exclusively on the written record. No attention will be paid to any alleged verbal promise or understanding in relation to which there is any disagreement or doubt.

Assignments.

**19.** Assignments of patents are to be accompanied by a copy thereof; the original will be kept in the Patent Office, and the copy will be returned to the person sending it, with certificate of registration thereon.

Miscellaneous  
cases, how to  
be decided.

**20.** All cases connected with the intricate and multifarious proceedings arising from the working of the Patent Office, which are not specially defined and provided for in these Rules, will be decided in accordance with the merits of each case under the authority of the Commissioner; and such decision will be communicated to the interested parties in writing.