

few tubes fastened together, and yet mathematical considerations are necessary and a scientific training in bridge building, angles, struts, ties, braces, triangles, joints, etc., etc., must be understood in an engineering sense, or else the claims can not be drafted. Or take a mouse trap. No simpler example could be named. The mechanism or construction, involves, for its explanation, a high degree of mechanical knowledge, for it will not be sufficient simply to set forth the exact construction, but to describe in a claim the gist of the invention in generic terms and then in a specific direction, so as to cover not only the exact mechanical construction, but also, when the novelty is of a high enough degree, a general construction that will include and protect several varieties without the necessity of too many patents. Sometimes, an invention has such a wide scope and there are so many meritorious ways of carrying it out in practice, that the attorney must in one patent be able to incorporate a set of broad claims to include them all, a set of specific claims to cover one variety, this being as much as is permitted in one patent by law, and then the other patent may protect the respective specific devices when their importance is of sufficient practical value and legal necessity to warrant further patents—this question being left until the allowance of the broad claims is certain. Qualifications of attorneys for such purposes often come into play, and involve exact knowledge of mechanical, scientific and literary ability to a much greater extent even in the case of simple devices, than would be possessed by the too numerous incompetent solicitors. The more expert the solicitor both in technical and patent matters, the more the inventor will gain in the way of protection by a patent, while if expert only in patent law or only in technical knowledge the patent will only be the means of donating the invention to the public."

We also beg to quote the following from the Commissioner's Annual Report (1893):

"PATENT BAR."

"The vast public and private interests involved in the just administration of the patent system, demand that the practitioners before the Office, like those before the Federal Courts, shall be only those