

The various steps which are necessary to be taken in order to obtain a British patent may be briefly stated as follows :—

THE TITLE.

When an inventor has resolved to apply for letters patent, the first thing to be considered is the title which must be given to the invention in the petition. There is often a good deal of difficulty in selecting a proper title, and inventors have not unfrequently lost the benefit of their patents in consequence of an error in this point.

The title must point out distinctly and specifically the nature of the invention ; it must not be too general, and it is desirable not to make it too narrow—faults which a professional person is more likely to avoid than those not accustomed to the preparation of patent documents.

The title having been framed, and the petition prepared, it must be lodged at the office of the Commissioners of Patents, along with a declaration, made before some competent authority, and a

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

This document is required to state distinctly and intelligibly the whole nature of the invention, so as to show in what it consists, and the means by which it is carried into effect. It is not necessary, however, to go into minute details.

PROVISIONAL PROTECTION.

The title and the provisional specification are then referred to the law officer, for his approval. If dissatisfied with them, he may require them to be amended. If he approve of them, he issues his certificate to that effect, and this being filed in the Commissioners' office, the invention becomes provisionally protected—that is to say, for six months, commencing at the date of the application—it may be used and published by the inventor. We would advise an inventor to be cautious how he makes his invention public until the time for opposing the grant has gone by.

The object of compelling an inventor to lodge a provisional specification with his petition, is to provide against the introduction