

GENERAL NOTES.

PATENTS IN 1894.—Patent litigation has been rather brisk during the past year, and some stubborn fights have taken place in all three parts of the United Kingdom. In Ireland the Court of Appeal was occupied two whole weeks over the case of *Pirrie v. The York Street Flax Spinning Company (Lim.)*. The invention in this case was for improvements in wet spinning for flax or like yarns, and consisted in combining a well-known apparatus in cotton and wool spinning with existing machinery in flax spinning. The Court upheld the patent, and declared that an infringement had been committed.—*Law Journal* (London).

AN UNUSUAL VISITOR IN CHAMBERS.—A singular sight was witnessed in the chambers of the Courts of Law, where the Vacation judge sits to hear private applications. The Lord Chief Justice was the Vacation judge, and immediately he took his seat in a room of somewhat small dimensions, Colonel Mitchell appeared in full military dress. The sitting in chambers is always supposed to be strictly private. The gallant colonel at once applied to Lord Russell to allow him to remain during the morning to watch the course of procedure, so as to enable him in future to know how to proceed in chambers as to a motion in person with regard to money withheld from him by the War Office. The Lord Chief Justice acceded to the request, and Colonel Mitchell sat in chambers throughout the morning while the Lord Chief Justice disposed of the cases.—*London Standard*.

RECIPROCITY AND THE AUSTRALIAN BAR.—A deadlock in reciprocity has occurred in connection with the legal profession. No longer can a member of the Bar removing from one colony to another insure the ready acceptance of his position, but he is compelled to undergo the humiliating and harassing regulation of further examination. This objection applies equally in Victoria, and, indeed, we are inclined to believe that the difficulty found its origin here, and that our neighbours are simply expressing a sentiment of retaliatory resentment. However this may be, Victorian barristers are beginning to experience the inconvenience. Some of the enterprising juniors who can find no opening for their talents here have been tempted to try West Australia as a more promising field, only to discover that in the absence of reciprocity they cannot obtain admission within