

physical, chemical, engineering, or mechanical directions. The preparation of the specification is simple as compared with the drafting of the claims, because the same involves the highest literary talent and an education coupled with a knowledge of patent law, while the mechanical training is still the most important part. An ideal claim is so difficult of composition, that five years' experience, at the least, with all the above acquirements, are about enough to enable a beginner to draft it. To formulate an accurate proposition in geometry is easy in comparison.

Now let us pass on to the prosecution of the application in case other patents are cited as alleged anticipations. They may in reality not meet the invention. The claims may have been unnecessarily too broad or too narrow, or vague or in some other respect, not absolutely perfect, or the opinion of the examiner may not for good reasons be conceded to. In the first place, the references must be studied very carefully and the various inventions thoroughly understood. This is a small part of the duty of the solicitor. The specifications and claims must be compared with each other, both specifically and generically with an unusual power of discernment. After all is understood, the knowledge of patent law must be applied to decide whether, from a legal standpoint, the novelty over the state of the art will warrant the right to patent protection, and finally, the redrawing of the claims to suit the circumstances, must be attended to. The utmost care, skill and knowledge are required in these final readjustments; for after the certificate of allowance has been issued, the last chance of improving the protection is lost, except that if any undue limitation is discovered, it can be remedied only by petition and by showing that a refusal to reopen the case would work an irreparable injury.

Accordingly, it becomes apparent that the solicitor must be prepared by his own knowledge and practical experience to analyze the various allied inventions and to express by proper claims, the exact scope of his client's invention by means of legal patent claims. I have pointed out, only partially, however, the various requirements, but as a climax to all, we arrive at the item of responsibility, and it is right here that the question of honesty arises. A man may avoid crime or frauds and yet do much harm where only the most vigorous investigation could prove that he slighted some important step in applying for a patent. Here then is a loop-