

how few are qualified for membership in any of the scientific or mechanical, or engineering societies; how few could write an article for a technical periodical without its being lodged in the waste basket; and how few, therefore, could prepare such a clear, exact and complete description of an alternating current dynamo, or, of a steam engine releasing gear, or of a bicycle, or of a printing machine or of a typewriter that would stand the critical examination which occurs when experts for a purchaser of the patent, or before the courts criticise it; the specification and claims are literally torn to pieces by the experts. The whole value of the patent, assuming the invention to be novel and valuable, depends absolutely and alone upon the exact meaning rendered by the wording of the specification and claims. How many hundreds of attorneys have attempted this task, not even realizing their own incapability; because a man with a little knowledge of a subject usually thinks he knows all about it. No other profession calls for such experts. Take an electrical engineer; his speciality is electricity and consequently he need know little about bridges—that is, about civil engineering. Or, consider a chemist. He requires no knowledge about printing machines, that is, of mechanics. Or let the profession be that of a mining engineer. What does he know about law? Again, how little the lawyer pure and simple, who naturally spends his time in suits over real estate, debts, damages, etc., etc., knows about agricultural machines. Men of any profession seldom undertake cases in some other line. The most perfect patent attorney is he who is versed in all departments of science, engineering and mechanics, because one day he will have, say, a kinetoscope invention to be patented, and the next day, a new process of dyeing; the next day, an electric motor case, and then a linotype machine, photographic invention, etc., without any choice whatever on his part.

The only remedy for overcoming the seeming impossibility of hoping to secure a perfectly prepared solicitor, would be the existence of a specialist in each department, but this would scarcely, at the present day, be feasible, although the best attorneys generally become rooted in some speciality in which a large proportion is all on one subject, and he gradually becomes experienced in such a variety that he is more and more competent in all, assuming of course, that to start with, he has a solid foundation in one or in all