March 1950

Patent Notes for Engineers (C. D. Tuska, 1947)

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If any writing showing the source of the patent privilege succeeds in defining "invention" in either a popular or a statutory sense, in contrast to mere statements of what it is not, the work merits notice and investigation.

This small volume treats in a clear and concise manner the nature of invention, invention as a practical matter, records, proceedings, applications for patents, interferences, ownership and use of patents, and related matters of definite practical interest. Such problems as accurate description of the invention and proper definition of its boundaries make the prosecution of a patent application a highly technical matter. This book, prepared by the RCA Laboratories for the use of the patent department of Radio Corporation of America and for the information of its scientists, engineers, and patent attorneys, clearly analyzes the problems involved.

The early Statute of Monopolies,¹ which was declaratory of the existing common law, forbade grants of monopoly to others than those making a discovery or introducing a new invention. The common law right of an inventor to the exclusive benefit of his invention continues so long as he can keep it secret; his statutory right under the patent laws excludes others from its use for a limited term in return for the full disclosure of his invention to the public.

From one standpoint it may be said that there are only two kinds of knowledge: that of people and that of things. The latter, generally speaking, is quite stable. Advance is made into this new knowledge by the separate methods of invention, discovery, and research. The inventor sees the need for something and tries to create it. He has the conception of a need in its entirety and starts to work out the individual parts. To that extent all inventions follow the same pattern.

The citations, illustrations, and practical suggestions add much to the value of this well-designed and well-executed effort to bridge the gap between engineers, research workers, and inventors generally, and their patent attorneys.

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