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Patent Law in the Research Laboratory (John Kenneth Wise, 1955)

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the Crowell company deserves much credit for embarking on an important publishing venture such as this in the face of realization that financial returns from the series will probably not be great.

It seems beyond question that the future of state government depends heavily on a knowledge of the experience of states in meeting the diverse problems of politics, governmental organization, and administration; it is equally clear that the comparative studies from which such knowledge will grow is dependent upon a thorough treatment of the government of each state.

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This pocket-size book, which can be read in one sitting, states in the preface that it is intended for the industrial research worker. The author seems to have missed the mark. Although presented in an interesting and readable fashion, undue space and emphasis are devoted in the early chapters to the history, evolution, and justification of the patent system itself. Throughout the later portions of the book the substantive and procedural changes effected by the congressional revision of the patent law effective January 1, 1953, are analyzed in a somewhat tedious fashion instead of being discussed in a straightforward way.

Despite these objections, this book is recommended to those who desire a condensed survey of patent law in this area. Readers will obtain some background for predicting the probable patentability of laboratory developments, important safeguards to observe throughout the process of development and application for patents, and some appreciation of both the costs and the benefits of patent protection. One omission that might be considered serious is that of any discussion of shop rights, with the various patent policies followed by different employers and the resulting agreements in their employment contracts.

The more important of the administrative Rules of Practice of the Patent Office are discussed, with special explanation of proper
techniques for the stating of claims so as to surmount any later difficulties in the way of interference or infringement.

Other technicalities considered by the author include the interpretations given such terms as "conception of the idea," "reduction to practice," and "constructive reduction." In connection with infringement there are discussions of the important Doctrine of Equivalents and the relatively new concept of "contributory infringement."

Two excellent chapters are those treating such mercenary matters as the rights represented by a patent or patent application and how such rights are transferred between parties, as by sale, assignment in whole or in part, and by license.

Although records are acknowledged by the author to be of tremendous importance, it is submitted that this important point should have been expanded considerably. Illustrative examples, forms, and filing systems could and should be suggested. Similarly, a chapter on expert witnessing would be informative and very helpful to many laboratory workers. Nearly all the cases described relate to chemical engineering, whereas the broad field of mechanical patents is seldom mentioned.

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