

## **Book Notices**

PATENT LAW OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. By A.M. WALTON & H.I.L. LADDIE. [London: Butterworths. 1978. Loose leaf.]

PATENTS ACT 1977: QUEEN MARY COLLEGE PATENT CONFERENCE PAPERS. By MARY VICTORIA (ed.). [Faculty of Laws Queen Mary College, University of London. 1978. xv+95 pp.]

The radical changes wrought in the U.K. system of patents registration by the legislation of 1977 were intended to bring it into line with the European systems as well as to effectuate treaty obligations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Effectively, the 1949 legislation which has hitherto prevailed is now substantially changed and restricted

in application. The ramifications of these changes, particularly for most Commonwealth jurisdictions which have had a system of registration of U.K. patents instead of granting patents *de novo*, now becomes problematic. The new system of patent law will eventually have 3 different types of patents 'PA 49' to denote patents granted under the 1949 legislation, 'PA 77' to denote patents granted under the new 1977 Act and European Patents registered under the 1977 Act. While theoretically the main differences are those of the method by which they were granted and the forum by which they may be revoked, several significant differences exist, *e.g.* criteria of validity, and term of protection, 20 years for the new rather than the 16-year term previously available.

*Patent Law of Europe and the United Kingdom*, a practitioners volume, is subdivided into 13 divisions including commentary and full scale reproduction of the U.K. Patents legislation, the European Patent Convention, the Community Patent Convention and the Patent Co-operation Treaty, together with forms and precedents.

*Patents Act 1977* contains six conference papers which deal with aspects of the new patents requirements. In particular, it has a concise discussion of the changes wrought by the Act, the transitional provisions, the new connotations of patentability and validity, interpretation of claims and infringements and the now codified rules on employee's invention. In short it presents a window into the labyrinth that is patent legislation in the U.K. today.

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