

Patents for Inventions

FIFTH EDITION

T. A. Blanco White

Stevens

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and the
Protection of Industrial Designs

BY

T. A. BLANCO WHITE

one of Her Majesty's Counsel

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PREFACE

THE Patents Act 1977 inaugurated a new system of patent law, and the British patents that will be granted in future will be governed by the new system. But it will be many years before the patents to be granted in the future are of much practical importance: by and large, patents become practically important, if at all, near the end of their lives. So, for the next decade and a half attention needs to be directed to the patents granted under the Act before: the Patents Act 1949, as from time to time amended. These are governed by a hybrid system of law: partly 1949 Act, partly 1977 Act, partly some weird transitional provisions.

The "new" patent law is treated fully, in particular, in the loose-leaf *Encyclopedia of United Kingdom and European Patent Law*. The purpose of the present book is to cover those aspects of the hybrid system that are peculiar to old Act patents. These have been covered, in the *Encyclopedia*, by a series of notes of points at which the author's *Patents for Inventions* now called for amendment. That could not go on indefinitely, and the time has come for a new edition. As before, the *Encyclopedia* will be used to keep the text up to date. It seemed appropriate to publish this book under my name, as essentially a new edition of *Patents for Inventions*. The actual writing has been mine. But the ideas expressed owe much to discussions with the other four editors of the *Encyclopedia*.

Cases reported up to [1983] R.P.C. Part 1 and [1983] F.S.R. Part 1 have been considered; also one significant unreported case, *Codex v. Racal Milgo* (C.A., March 21, 1983; leave to appeal to H.L. refused).

T. B. W.

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