

# **PATENTS AND CHEMICAL RESEARCH**

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Patents and chemical research by Harold E. Potts

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**HAROLD E. POTTS**

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CHEMICAL  
RESEARCH**



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AND  
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CHARTERED PATENT AGENT

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS OF LIVERPOOL. 1921

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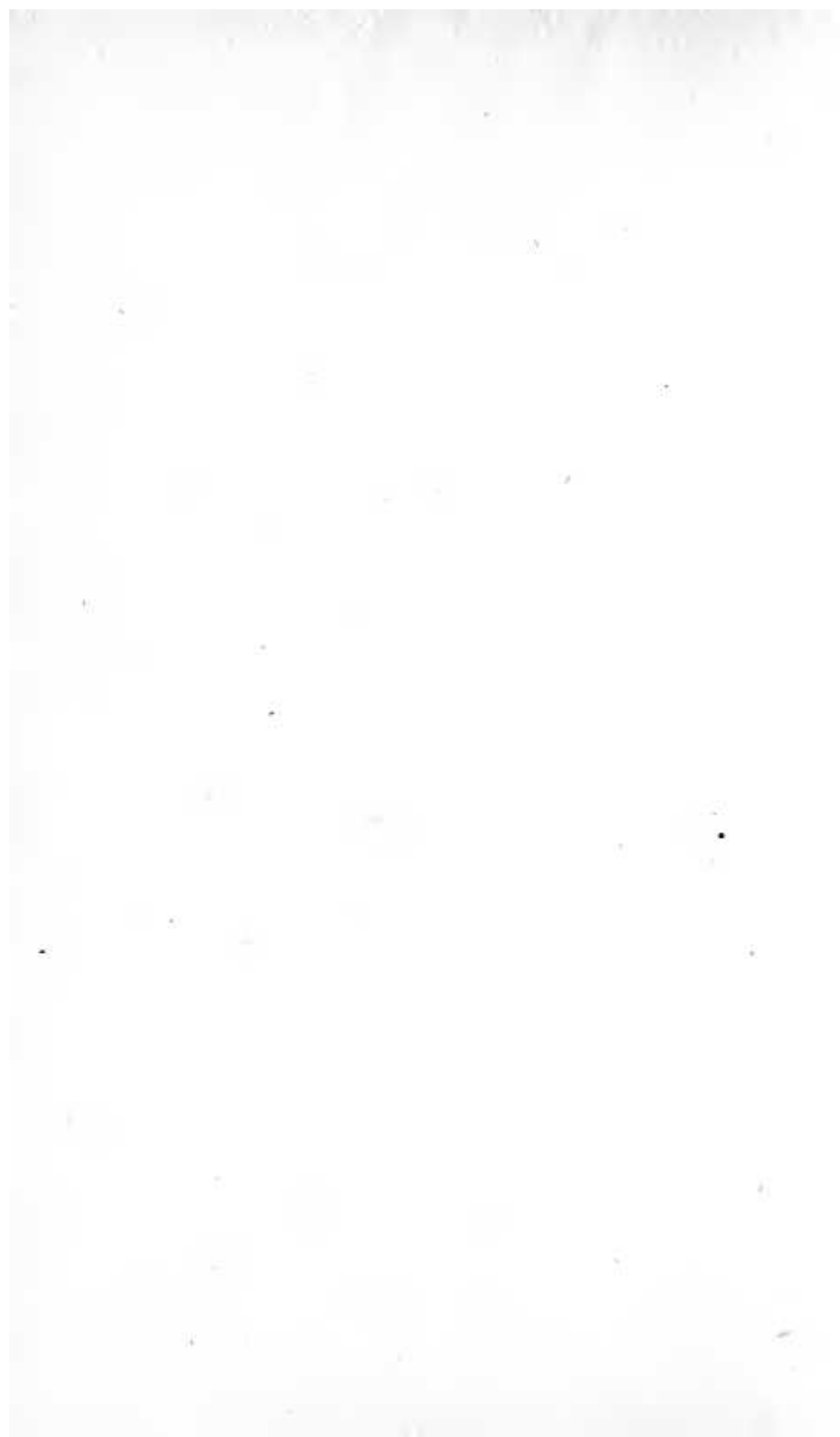
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DEDICATED TO  
W. P. THOMPSON, M.I.M.E.  
CHARTERED PATENT AGENT,  
AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION  
OF A GENEROUS FRIEND AND  
PARTNER





## PREFACE

PROGRESS in industrial chemical research and invention is intimately dependent on the efficiency of the patent system. Patent law deals with such complex problems that a heavy responsibility is thus cast upon practitioners of the law. Therefore it is most desirable that chemists should familiarise themselves with the leading principles of patent law; first, to enable them to co-operate with the patent agent and thus contribute to the object of obtaining secure protection for their inventions, and, second, so that their criticism will stimulate patent agents to maintain the highest level of professional skill. In this way, better work will be done, and the greatest benefits will be derived from the patent system.

It is hoped that this book will be helpful to those engaged in industrial research work, and especially to directors of research; but the problems of patent law are so inherently fascinating that those engaged in academic research may find some points of interest. Since any legal readers may desire to study the decided cases, I have added references to the original Reports of Patent Cases (R.P.C.). I have not hesitated to employ hypothetical cases freely for purposes of illustration. It may be added that the book deals with British law as it now

stands, and not with any ideal but non-existent system. It is too soon to estimate the full effect of the wise provision of section eight of the 1919 Act, which provides that one invalid claim need not invalidate the whole patent: if generously interpreted by the Courts, this section should remove one of the chief weaknesses of the old law.

The first six chapters are based on lectures delivered by invitation to the Liverpool Section of the British Association of Chemists; I wish to thank Dr. F. W. Kay, who made the arrangements. I also wish to thank my partners for assistance and encouragement; Mr. W. R. Sharpe and Miss D. Gray, who read the proofs: and the University Press, who have increased the debt which I owe to the University of Liverpool. Finally, I must thank my friends Mr. S. J. Duly, Dr. F. W. Atack and Mr. J. L. Fairrie with whom I have discussed various of the general scientific principles on which parts of this book are based.

H. E. P.

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*1st November, 1921*

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