

PATENT AGENTS.

During the year seven names were added to the Register of Patent Agents, bringing the number up to sixty-four. Five cases were those of solicitors, who are entitled to registration without examination.

A copy of the papers set in the other two cases in which examinations were held is included in this report. While these are intended to give intending candidates and others a general idea of the scope of the examination, it should be mentioned that considerable discretion is allowed examiners in setting their papers, and that in addition a *viva voce* examination is held.

The profession is now well established, and fills an important place in preparing applications, and doing other work which does not come within the province of the Patent Office. This distinction between the duties of patent agents and those of the Patent Office seem to be lost sight of by some members, who, in describing their premises as "Patent office" or "Office for patents" may inadvertently convey a wrong impression. I recognise that this practice is one of long-standing, both in this colony and other countries, but it seems to me to be inadvisable. I notice that the members of the Institute of Patent Agents in England have voluntarily resolved to discontinue it, and that it has been debarred by a recent regulation of the Commonwealth Patent Office.

CONCLUSION.

I desire again to record my appreciation of the good work performed by the office staff; and I cannot close this report without express mention of the Deputy Registrar, Mr. J. C. Lewis, to whose loyal and efficient co-operation I am much indebted.

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