

tected months in which to evaluate the market potential and decide if he wants to pursue his application further in individual countries. When he finally decides on the countries in which he wants to file, he would do so in accordance with their respective patent laws and in their languages. That he has the power, just on the basis of his application, to tie up an area of invention for 20 months will be one hurdle the treaty will have to overcome, at least in the United States.

According to United States law, patent protection begins with the date the patent is formally applied for in Washington, after elaborate requirements have been met. The treaty, however, would start this protection immediately and more simply with the initial filing of a document in the home country. Whether the U.S. Senate will ratify a treaty which in effect alters United States patent law is still in question; the point in the process at which protection takes effect is a controversial one.

Phase two of the treaty is optional. It offers an applicant a source of advice beyond the mere search report. He can obtain a preliminary examination report from one of the five centers on the novelty, nonobviousness and industrial applicability of his invention. This fleshing out of the search report would be of value to inventors in underdeveloped nations who do not have available the facilities for such determinations.

Next week the treaty goes back to the respective governments for hearings and, if nothing interferes, ratification; this will take two years or more.

William E. Schuyler Jr., U.S. Commissioner of Patents and conference chairman, does not believe the barriers are insuperable. "I am optimistic that a treaty will evolve," he says, "that will be signed by many countries." □

SCIENCE NEWSBRIEFS

Chairman for NSF

The governing board of the National Science Foundation has elected Dr. Herbert Carter to a two-year term as its chairman. Dr. Carter, a chemist who is vice-chancellor at the University of Illinois, succeeds Dr. Philip Handler. □

Diet pills

Two Montgomery County, Md. doctors who were sued for \$276,000 in a malpractice case (SN: 11/16/68, p. 464) for prescribing diet pills have settled the case for \$40,000. Drs. Charles J. Savarese and Wilfred H. Ehrmantraut were sued by the two daughters of Vera Ashley, a 36-year-old Maryland housewife who died May 25, 1964 from a heart attack. The plaintiffs claimed the attack resulted from the use of diet pills prescribed by the two physicians. The settlement did

REORGANIZATION

New environmental agencies

Major Government reorganization plans have been submitted to Congress by every Administration since Truman's. These plans have been a useful device for Presidents: They cost little at the outset and they create the appearance of a meaningful thrust toward efficiency and effectiveness in government. Sometimes they have been meaningful; the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was created under such a plan in 1953, for example.

President Nixon will submit plans soon for a reshuffling, as major as that which created HEW, of environmental and pollution control agencies. The President would bring into being two new superagencies. One would deal strictly with pollution and would consolidate existing agencies now under the HEW, Interior and Agriculture Departments and the Atomic Energy Commission. The second agency would deal with oceanographic and atmospheric policy and would incorporate eight existing agencies.

The plans will be submitted to Congress under the 1949 Governmental Reorganization Act, which makes passage automatic unless Congress acts negatively within 60 days.

The proposal is not unlike one in a bill introduced by Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Me.) in April, and it is possible that Congressional Democrats will forgo partisan opposition to the Nixon proposal.

What opposition there is will probably come from elsewhere, including from within the Administration itself. Interior Secretary Walter Hickel has indicated a desire to have all pollution control under Interior. □

not constitute an admission of wrongdoing by the physicians.

Radioactive disposal

One possible means of disposing of radioactive wastes is to bury them in salt mines (SN: 3/28, p. 312). Last week, the AEC said it will ask for authorization in its 1972 budget to construct a \$20 to \$50 million waste management center in a salt mine.

Monitoring modification

The National Science Foundation formerly had authority to compel reporting of all non-Federal weather-modification activities, but Congress repealed the function in 1968. Last week Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) introduced a bill providing that weather-modification activities be reported to the Secretary of Commerce. □

books OF THE WEEK

ABORTION IN A CHANGING WORLD, Vol. I—Robert E. Hall, M. D., Ed.—Columbia Univ. Press, 1970, 377 p., illus., \$10. Conference papers and discussion of the ethical, medical, legal, social and global aspects of abortion.

ACIDS AND BASES: Their Quantitative Behaviour—R. P. Bell—Methuen (Barnes & Noble), 1970, 2nd ed., 111 p., diagrams, \$4. Revision includes new methods of investigation together with discussion of acid-base catalysis and acid-base reactions.

ADVANCES IN WATER POLLUTION RESEARCH: Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference held in Prague, 1969—S. H. Jenkins, Ed.—Pergamon Press, 1970, 936 p., illus., \$48. Contributions range from discussion of the self-purification process of canalized highly polluted rivers to planning cooling water for power stations.

THE ALBATROSS OF MIDWAY ISLAND: A Natural History of the Laysan Albatross—Mildred L. Fisher—Southern Ill. Univ. Press, 1970, 160 p., 60 photographs, maps, \$5.95. Deals primarily with the behavior of the birds during their mating and nesting season on the island. Based on scientifically correct data, the story is told from direct observation.

ATOMIC ORDER: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Microphysics—Enrico Cantore—MIT Press, 1970, 334 p., illus., \$12.50. Discusses a concrete example of scientific discovery, the problem of atomic order as discovered and verified by physics, in a way acceptable and understandable to both philosophers and scientists.

THE AVIFAUNA OF NORTHERN LATIN AMERICA: A Symposium Held at the Smithsonian Institution, 1966—Helmut K. Buechner and Jimmie H. Buechner, Eds.—Smithsonian (GPO), 119 p., maps, \$3.25. Explores the changes occurring in the winter ranges of migrating birds in the various habitats in Central America and in the northern countries of South America.

BASIC COLOR TERMS: Their Universality and Evolution—Brent Berlin and Paul Kay—Univ. of Calif. Press, 1970, 178 p., diagrams, \$8.50. A study of color vocabulary indicating that semantic universals do exist in this domain, and that they appear to be related to the historical development of languages in a way that can be termed evolutionary.

THE GIFTED: Developing Total Talent—Joseph P. Rice, foreword by Max Rafferty—Thomas, C. C., 1970, 339 p., diagrams, \$17.50. Summarizes the basic ingredients of sound educational program development for the talented. Program goals and student identification procedures are linked to evaluation processes.

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