in the granting of patents to the scientific discoverers of principles or things which did immediately carry with them their practical application, although an application not within the sphere of manufactures.

Thus at the present day, "judge-made" law, as regards inventions which produce new and uncontemplated results of a striking character, has shown itself in favour of widening considerably the scope of their protection. By concentrating upon the novelty and importance of the results obtained from an invention and proportionately relegating to the background the means or methods for carrying out the invention, the Courts have progressed far towards conferring protection in respect of discoveries in general. They have done much; but they cannot do everything. Their efforts must be supplemented by legislation. The Committee, stating that it would be a fatal mistake to think that the activities of the organisation of the League are entirely absorbed and exhausted by political questions, boldly pronounces in favour of international agreement prior to local legislation, and submits a draft convention based upon conventions already in force for the protection of authors' rights by copyright and the protection of inventors by patents.

Discussion of the draft convention must be postponed to our next issue, when we also propose to examine practical means whereby the scientific worker may receive reward proportionately to the extent of the employment of his discovery.

(*To be concluded.*)

The British Dyestuff Industry.

IN the same sense as the nineteenth century was the mechanical age and witnessed the enormous development in productive capacity and social possibilities due to the extended use of machinery, so the twentieth century almost certainly will be known as the chemical age, in which the chief stimulus to human progress was given by the greatly increased application of science, and chiefly chemistry, to industry and other aspects of human activity. Thus it will come about, inevitably, that those countries which develop chemical industry to the greatest extent will be the commercial leaders in the hierarchy of nations, provided that the other essential factors of success, character and a concurrent development of the arts, are also present.

It is for the above reasons, and because organic chemistry offers an illimitable field for the tillage of utilitarian crops and an inexhaustible mine of products valuable in minimising human labour or increasing health and enjoyment, that the future of the British dyestuff industry is of such vast national importance; and a recognition of this fact has led the Council of the Institute of Chemistry, speaking for the majority of British chemists, to issue a memorandum on the subject to members of parliament, the Board of Trade, and the public. In this timely document, the national necessity of developing and maintaining a successful British dyemaking industry is strongly urged from the viewpoint that it is the only industry at present capable of utilising the services of large numbers of trained organic research chemists; an adequate number of such chemists being essential to our national welfare, in peace as in war.

At the general meeting of the British Dyestuffs Corporation on April 8, the chairman, Sir Wm. Alexander, was able to announce that the Corporation was steadily improving its position, both financially and in respect of its production; but his remarks on the question of the proposed agreement with the great German combine, the Interessen-Gemeinschaft, known as the I.G., were of a negative and nebulous character. He said that much of the recent criticism had been misinformed, but admitted that the terms originally agreed upon had been modified to meet certain criticisms, and said that the agreement would in no way jeopardise the Corporation's independence and national character. This point can be judged only when the terms of the agreement are disclosed; but in view of the original terms to which the directors of the British Dyestuffs Corporation were presumably willing to agree, the document when it appears will have to be scrutinised very carefully, as under those terms the Corporation would have become a sort of super-*Deutschland*, bringing large cargoes of German dyes and German chemists to Britain.

At the moment, the centre of the negotiations appears to be in Britain and to be concerned with the adequate safeguarding of the interests of the colour users and of the British dyemakers outside the government-aided Corporation. The magnitude of the operations of the latter are not generally realised. It is stated that their combined capital and output exceed those of the British Dyestuff Corporation. The Council of the Institute of Chemistry has rendered an important public service by emphasising again the national aspect of this most important matter. W. M. G.

Abnormal Metabolism.

Inborn Errors of Metabolism. By Sir Archibald E. Garrod. (Oxford Medical Publications.) Second edition. Pp. vi+216. (London: H. Frowde and Hodder and Stoughton, 1923.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE first edition of this most valuable monograph was published by Sir Archibald Garrod in 1909, and was based on the Croonian lectures delivered by him before the Royal College of Physicians of London