

Such inventions we have discussed in chapter 6. Especially worthy might be a scarcely patentable or unpatentable invention for State or local government, say in education, the architecture of prisons or institutions, crime prevention, fire fighting, sewerage, or coping with pollution of air or water, and all inventions and reseaches for enabling *consumers* not merely to be protected in their health, but economically, to get the most for their money, e.g. by a microfilmed encyclopedia (§ 337), and to get the best for their special needs, and such goods as can be repaired, altered, or easily resold, instead of being thrown away and a new one bought, as may be to the manufacturer's but not the public's interest. Such assistance to reseachers is now given very extensively by universities and foundations (counted), and a small million dollars' worth by the Office of Technical Services (§ 383); the trade associations would help many, though not all types if they had the funds. Research, or science, is much better taken care of in noncommercial ways than is invention; for we have been learning for several centuries past that science is indispensable, and cannot pay its own bills; but invention proper is still usually thought to be taken care of by commercialism and the patent system, unless military (ch. 8).

[459] 12. PRIZES AND AWARDS. PRIZES, offered to call forth an invention with specified traits and efficiency, like the prizes that called forth canning, the chronometer, and some early aircraft, have practically dropped out of use, because they do not seem adapted to the fast developments, high expenses, and needed team, laboratory, and highly informed attack, which characterize the important inventions wanted today. Yet they might sometimes be helpful.

[460] AWARDS,⁴¹¹ granted after the inventions or discoveries have proved themselves, have been known for a century or more, and seem to be increasing nowadays. Whether or not including a modest reward of cash, as one-third do, and in Russia valued privileges, they always provide a large measure of honor, rank, the esteem of those friends and colleagues whose good opinion we most long for, the strongest motivation in life above the biological level of food, sex, and safety. Furthermore, as we said (§ 414), in a salaried age honors are readily transmuted into raises, which in turn spell further rank. Awards are almost always granted to individuals rather than to the teams, companies, or institutions which might perhaps better be called the discoverers. Perhaps the reason is that an honor, and maybe some dollars, mean more to a man than to any group.

[461] We have found awards⁴⁴⁸ the smallest of all our factors, perhaps from too money-bound a method of reckoning. We and others⁴⁴⁹ think the institution should be expanded, with more funds, governmental decorations, titles, and privileges, for the best, awarded perhaps some by a foundation or a governmental agency, though usually best distributed by the professional societies, as today, since honor from one's confreres means more than from any other group.

[462] Awards, and their humble brother Suggestion Systems, have the merit of bypassing all rules of eligibility, except their own; theirs are always more or less restrictive, but on different bases from other rules; so the inventor or scientist who did great work, but failed for any reason to benefit sufficiently from a patent, commercial profits, or salary, has a chance of reward through awards or suggestion systems. However useful, these institutions could never become the main sup-