

girls and women come to the doctors inciting them to crime. If the operation is undertaken by unprincipled men or women, who have their moral senses blunted, the woman herself is an active participant in the crime, although passive in the operation. Should she be punished? So far as our knowledge of the Criminal Code of Canada goes—and we are informed that it is so—there is no punishment for the one who first incites to this crime and who subsequently participates in it. The doctors do not go chasing after this, as they certainly do not after other medical or surgical work. It comes to them. If they or any other man or woman undertakes it they are the only ones punishable. The woman goes scot free in the eyes of the law and only bears the odium of her immorality, which is a good lot,—but is it enough? In nine States of the American Union a woman who solicits, submits to, or performs an abortion on herself is guilty of a felony. In seven States the above offence is a misdemeanor, and in the remaining States and Territories, namely, thirty-five, the woman is guilty of no crime. Does this show that in Canada our Criminal Code is inefficient and inadequate in connection with the crime of criminal abortion, as well as in the thirty-five States of the United States referred to? The answer that the victim has already suffered enough and run enough danger cannot be considered a sufficient one; and it appears to us that our laws are not good enough nor sufficient enough against the crime of criminal abortion. In three ways can good work be performed: Education of mothers to the fact that they should educate their daughters that conception means life and not quickening; that medical faculties do their duty in the matter of teaching medical ethics; that the provincial and national medical bodies work towards securing the enactment of laws applicable to the inciters of these crimes.