

20. ABORTION

The problem of induced abortion remains a serious one within the Dominion. We have formed the opinion that the present criminal law is sufficiently drastic to meet the situation. There is, however, evidence of a need for a deeper moral appreciation of the issues involved, in the community as a whole. The only approach which will produce any effective results is that of the raising of the moral and spiritual tone of the community. This is a responsibility not only of parents and religious leaders, but one to which every section of the community must contribute.

We endorse the report of the 1937 Committee of Inquiry into the various Aspects of the Problem of Abortion in New Zealand (usually known as the McMillan report), and have pointed out that a number of the recommendations of that Committee have already been implemented.

21. CONTRACEPTION

There was some suggestion of an increase in the use of contraceptives, particularly among unmarried people. We endorse the recommendation of the Pharmacy Board that the sale of contraceptives should be restricted to registered pharmacists. Here, again, the problem of the moral and spiritual education of the people is most important.

We endorse the remarks and most of the recommendations of the 1937 Committee of Inquiry into the various Aspects of the Problem of Abortion in New Zealand on this subject.

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