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## THE INDUCTION OF ABORTION.

AN INTRODUCTION TO A DISCUSSION ON THE ARTIFICIAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY, BEFORE THE HUNTERIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON, ON DECEMBER 3, 1928.

By ANDREW McALLISTER,

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FOR the purpose of our discussion this evening on the artificial termination of pregnancy, Mr. Lane-Roberts and myself have divided the subject into two parts:—

- (1) The induction of abortion.
- (2) The induction of premature labour.

I will endeavour to give you my views on the induction of abortion, and I hope these may be sufficiently controversial to promote a good discussion, although I regret that I have nothing new to offer you. In nearly every discussion on the subject of abortion the matter is dealt with from three aspects: the legal; the ethical; and the therapeutic; and sometimes there is even a fourth, namely, the ecclesiastical.

The legal aspect need not detain us, except to state that the law teaches us nothing that is not already dictated to us by professional standards and moral pride.

The ecclesiastical aspect is of little importance from the clinical point of view, for obviously any competent practitioner would perform any necessary operation first, and talk about religion afterwards, if necessary.