

sider in council the conditions under which they ought to be permitted, as the freedom with which several members of the Bench were at first disposed to threaten them was having the effect of deterring prisoners from availing themselves of the right conferred on them by the statute.

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*Constructive Murder.*

Mr. Ambrose, Q.C., shortly before his appointment as Master in Lunacy, introduced into Parliament a bill to make by implication the act of bringing about abortion no longer a capital offence. Although Mr. Justice Phillimore was most unfairly criticised in connection with the case of Lieutenant Wark, the result of that *cause célèbre* shows that public opinion in this country is ripe for an amendment of the law in this direction. In one of the earlier abortion cases of the present legal year, the Attorney-General, who prosecuted for the Crown, propounded the theory that a homicide under such circumstances might amount to constructive murder only, if not to mere manslaughter. The legal soundness of this theory is, however, very doubtful, and it is much better that the problem should be solved by direct legislation.

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*The Lunacy Law and Borderland Cases.*

The treatment of mental disease in its early stages has received so much consideration of late that the case of Regina *v.* Reichardt, tried at Kingston-on-Thames on January 4th, 5th, and 6th of this year, is of especial interest at this moment, and owing to the importance of the questions raised, demands serious attention.

The case, briefly stated, is that a lady suffering from mental depression and hysteria attempted suicide, recovered, repented, and was recommended by an eminent physician to go to the house of Dr. Reichardt for care and treatment. She was seen at Dr. Reichardt's by a prominent specialist, who decided that,