by the trustful co-operation of our patients. This is true of those conditions involving questions of life and death, where it is our duty to say, "You must undergo an operation in order that your life may be saved," and it is equally true of those conditions where an operation is a matter of choice rather than of necessity, and where our formula will rather be this, "You will be well-advised to undergo an operation in order that your health may be restored." In my own practice, the distinction that I adopt is, that I *urge* an operation of necessity, and if the patient appears unwilling I use all my powers of persuasion; but I *advise* an operation of election, and after explaining the pros and cons I leave the choice to the patient.

I have dwelt at some length on this question of the attitude of our patients, because it is a most important factor in the consideration of operations for the restoring of health, as distinguished from operations for the saving of life.

Let me now say a few words about some of those conditions, in the department of gynecology, whose treatment by surgical means has been rendered possible by the fall in the death-rate of abdominal operations.

We may begin with uterine displacements. These are conditions that never prove fatal, and therefore we could not advise for their relief any operative treatment that was attended by an appreciable mortality. And so it was only when the mortality of abdominal operations generally was showing a marked decline that the surgical treatment of displacements came into vogue. It is interesting to note that the first abdominal operation for retroversion was an extra-peritoneal one, namely, the Alexander-Adams operation; at that time the peritoneal cavity was still a kind of "*noli me tangere*," and every time it was opened there was a threat of septicemia. Modern asepsis has robbed celiotomy of its terrors; we have learnt the ways of the peritoneal cavity, and ceased to fear it. We now know that if we can leave the vulnerable diaphragmatic area alone, and avoid undue handling of the bowel, and refrain from introducing into the peritoneal cavity irritant chemical antiseptics, the peritoneum is a tolerant structure well capable of looking after its own interests.

It was not long, therefore, before intra-peritoneal operations were introduced for the treatment of displacements, most of them originating on this side of the Atlantic. We had ventrofixation and ventrosuspension of the uterus, with their modifications, and the various procedures for the intra-peritoneal shortening of the round ligaments. It is not necessary in this place to discuss the