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NCREASING research has demonstrated how crude and inadequate were the old notions of intestinal muscular activity and intestinal secretion. The significance f the vital processes of the epithelial lining cells has but recently been appreciated. It is safe to say that many ancient though still customary methods of increasing peristalsis by drugs are pathologically provocative.

The evils of habitual constipation are so great, and so obvious, that doubtless the immediate consequence of even the most irritating aperient seems preferable. But one may reasonably doubt whether the afterresults of many of the purgative pills and potions daily swallowed by the thousand are not as harmful as they are unnecessary.

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