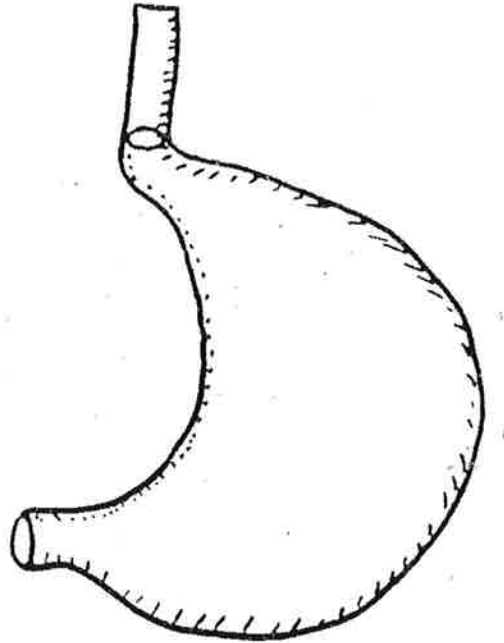


## THE ESOPHAGUS

Once the mouth has made the food into a soft mush, the tongue pushes it into the throat and then to the esophagus. The esophagus squeezes the mass of food by muscle contractions called peristalsis into the stomach.

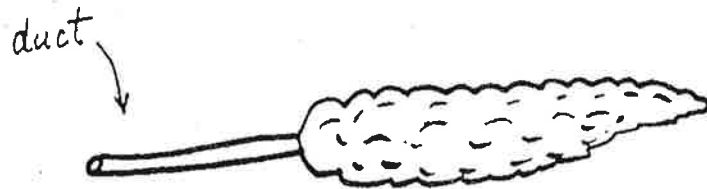
acid



## THE STOMACH

The stomach doesn't completely digest your food. Enzymes and strong ACID break food into nutrients (chemical digestion) and muscles churn and mix (physical digestion)—turning it into acid soup called chyme. Also kills some bacteria.

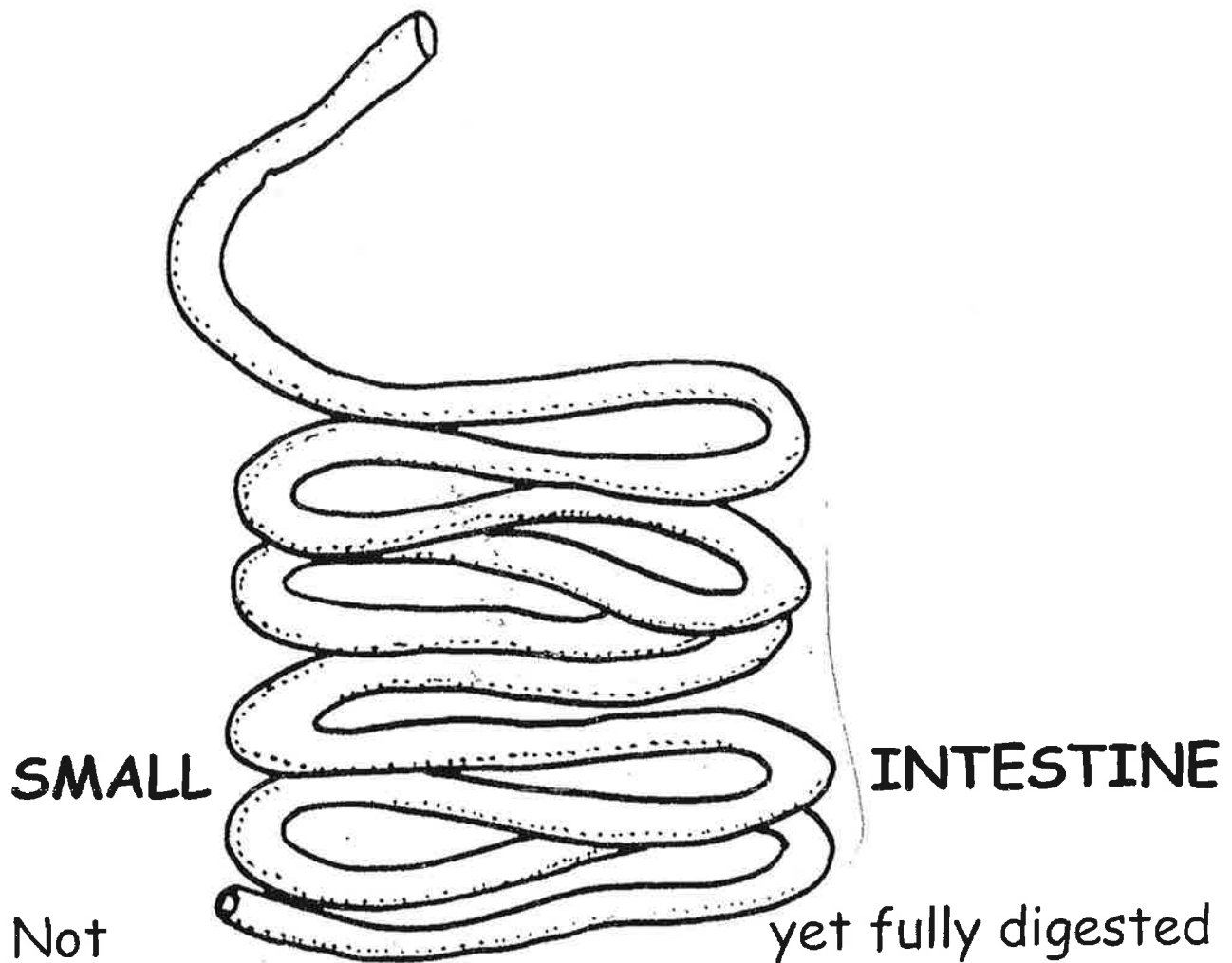
Damage to inside lining of stomach is called an ulcer.



## PANCREAS

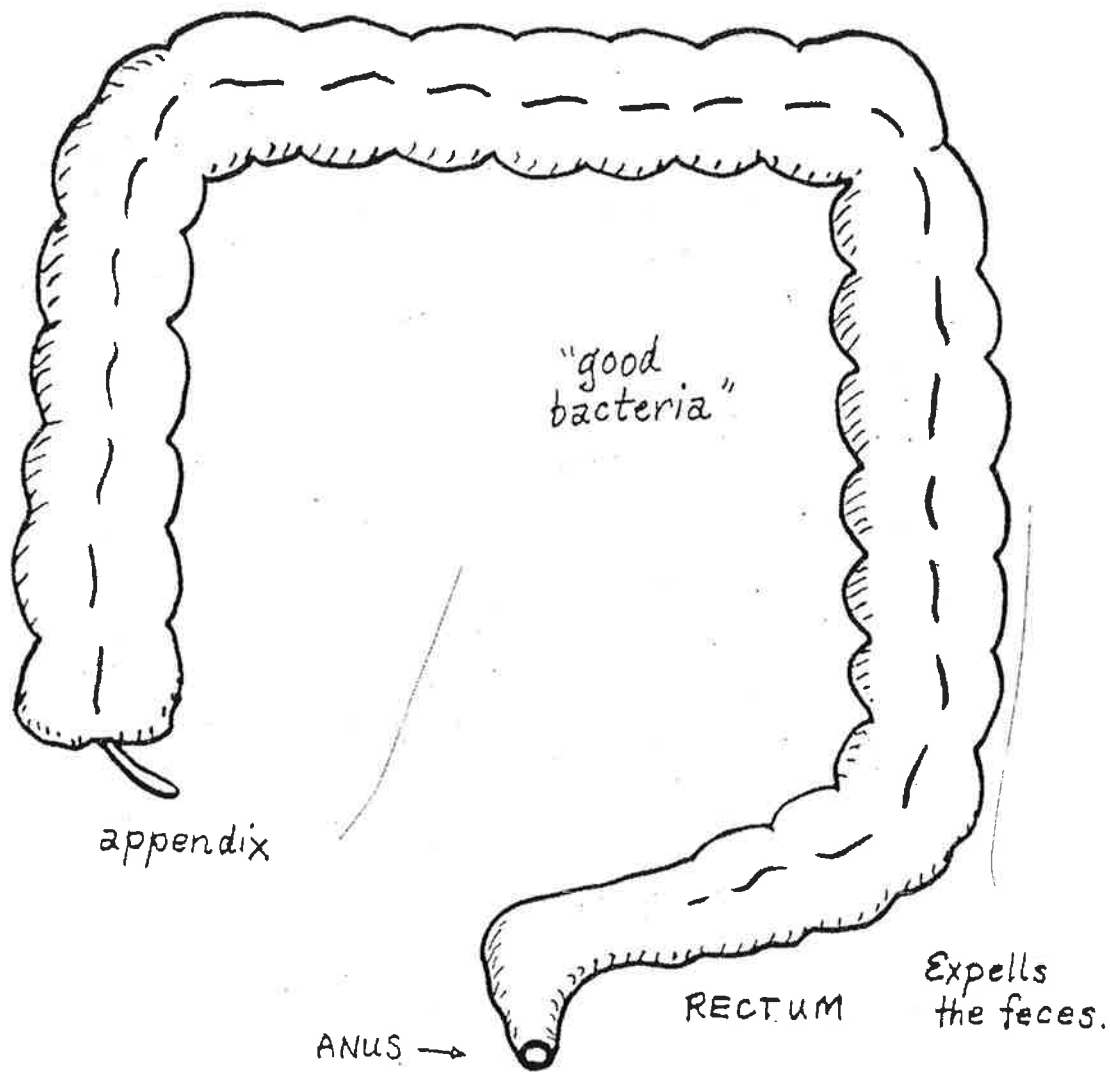
Fish shaped organ between stomach and small intestine. It makes digestive enzymes and bicarbonate that flow into the small intestine. Bicarbonate neutralizes acid.

It also produces a hormone, insulin, that regulates sugar.



Not yet fully digested food from the stomach enters here. This is where most <sup>chemical</sup> digestion takes place. Chyme moves through by peristalsis. Villi, on the inside wall, absorbs the digested food -**NUTRIENTS**-into the blood stream.

Proteins, fats, carbohydrates are digested into glucose with the help of all the enzymes before being absorbed into the blood.

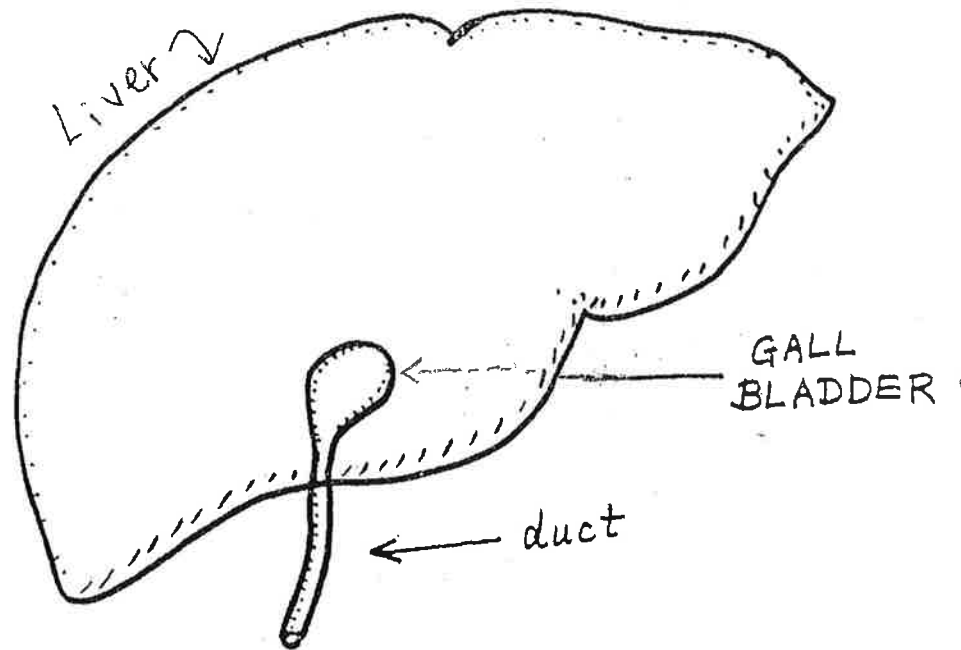


## LARGE INTESTINE

No digestion takes place here.

Undigested food empties into the large intestine as a soupy mess. It absorbs the water into the blood and the remainder is food waste called feces.

The Good Guys—BACTERIA, also live here.



## **LIVER and GALL BLADDER**

The liver produces bile that dissolves fat so that it may be digested. It is stored in the gall bladder. Bile flows down the gall bladder duct and into the top of the small intestine where it **BREAKS FAT DOWN** into microscopic droplets so that enzymes can digest them.