

Stomach, t.s.

The food, only roughly broken up by the action of the teeth and of the saliva, is stored in the stomach. Here digestion **starts**, the chemical preparation of the food for assimilation into the system. Gastric juice, mainly consisting of hydrochloric acid, is produced by **gastric glands** locate in the **pits of the gastric mucosa** (1). The action of the thick **muscular wall** (3) under a layer of connective tissue (2) causes the peristaltic movements of the stomach. They thoroughly mix its contents and finally empty them into the small intestine.