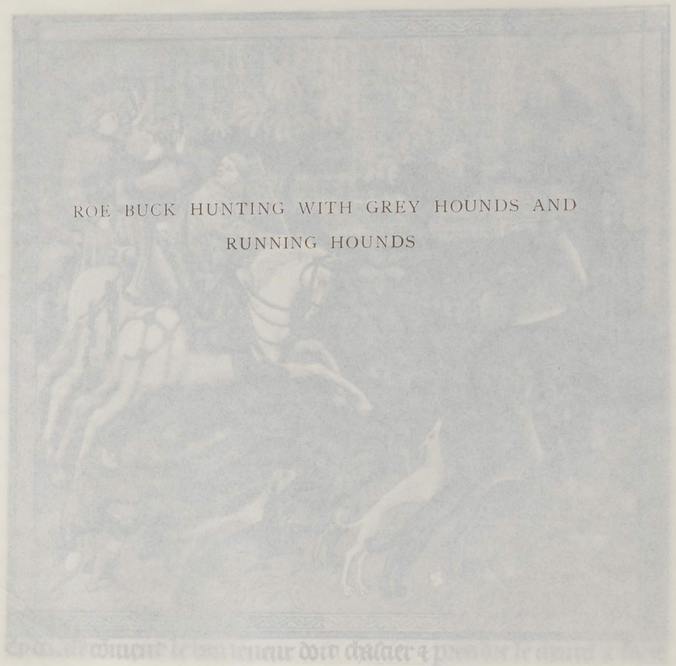
CAPITULUM V^m^—OF THE ROO AND OF HIS NATURE

THE Roo buk is a commen beest ynowe and þerfore me nedeþ not to telle of his makyng for þer bene fewe men þat ne han seye some of hem. It is a good litel beest and a goodly for to hunte to who so can do it, as I shalle deuyse here after, for þer bene fewe hunters þe whiche can devyse wel his nature. They goon in hur loue þat is called bokeyng in Octobre[1] and þe bokyng of hem durethe but xv. dayes or therabount for þe bokeng of þe Roo buck ne haþ at doo but wiþ oo Emel of alle þe Seson a masche (*sic*) and an Emel abiden togydere as hyndes[2] in to þe tyme þat þe Emel shul haue here kyddes, and þan þe Emel parteth from þe male and goþ to kyde hir kyddes fer þennes, for þe male shuld slee þe yonge if he myght hem fynde. And whan þei bene myche þat þei may ete by hem silf of þe herbes and of þe leeues and ronne away þan þe emel commeþ aȝein to þe male and euer shal þei be togidere to they be slayn, and he parteþ hem or hunteþ asonder þe oon fro that othur þe shul come aȝein as sone as þei may, and shul seche eiþer other, vnto þe tyme þat oon of hem haþ founde þat oþer. The cause why þe male and þe emelle bene euyr more togyder and noon oþere beest in this world but they is for comonly þe emel haþ ii kiddes at onys at onys (*sic*) þat oon male and that oþere female and for þei by kydded togidere þei holde hem evir more togidre. And ȝit ȝif þei were not kidded togydere of on emelle ȝit is þe nature of hem suche, þat þei shuld alway holde togydere as y haue seide bifore. Whan þei wiþdrawe from þe bokeyng þei mwethe her hedes for men shuld fynde but fewe Roo buckes whan þei bene passed ii yere that þe ne haue mwed her heedes by alhalowtide. And aftir her hedes commen ageyn rough as an hertes hede and comonly þei burnysshen her hornes in March. The Roo buk haþ no seson to be hunted for þei bere no venyson[3] but men shuld leue hem þe Emels for here kydes þat shuld be lost vnto þe tyme þat þei haue kyded, and þat þe kyddes can fede hem self and lif by hem self wiþ owte here dame. It is a good huntyng for it lasteþ al þe yere and þei renne wel and lenger þan dothe a grete hert in þe hie seson tyme. The Roo bukkes haue no jugement by hure fumes ne but litel by hure foote as of hertes

CHAP. 5.—OF THE ROE AND OF HIS NATURE

THE roebuck is a common beast enough, and therefore I need not to tell of his making, for there be few men that have not seen some of them. It is a good little beast and goodly to hunt to whoso can do it as I shall devise hereafter. There be few hunters that can well describe his nature. They go in their love that is called bokeyng in October,[1] and the bucking of them lasteth but fifteen days or there about. At the bucking of the roebuck he hath to do but with one female for all the season, and a male and a female abide together as the hinds[2] till the time that the female shall have her kids; and then the female parteth from the male and goeth to kid her kids far from thence, for the male would slay the young if he could find them. And when they be so big that they can eat by themselves of the herbs and of the leaves and can run away, then the female cometh again to the male, and they shall ever be together unless they be slain, and if one hunt them and part them asunder one from another, they will come together again as soon as they can and will seek each other until the time that one of them have found the other. And the cause why the male and the female be evermore together as no other beast in this world, is that commonly the female hath two kids at once one male and the other female, and because they are kidded together they hold evermore together. And yet if they were not kidded together of one female, yet is the nature of them such that they will always hold together as I have said before. When they withdraw from the bucking, they mew their heads, for men will find but few roebucks that have passed two years that have not mewed their heads by All Hallowtide. And after the heads come again rough as a hart's head, and commonly they burnish their horns in March. The roebuck hath no season to be hunted, for they bear no venison[3] but men should leave them the females for their kids that would be lost unto the time that they have kidded, and that the kids can feed themselves and live by themselves without their dame. It is good hunting for it lasteth all the year and they run well, and longer than does a great hart in high season. Roebucks cannot be judged by their fumes, and but little by their footing as one can of harts, for a man cannot

[1] This is wrong; they rut in the beginning of August. See Appendix: Roe.
[2] A clerical error. G. d. F. (p. 36) says, "as do birds," which makes good sense.
[3] See Appendix; Grease.



ROE BUCK HUNTING WITH GREY HOUNDS AND RUNNING HOUNDS