they help nat þe buche to norche here whelpes, But whan a wolf and a biche be in felawship togidre and ther be no mo wolfes in þat Contre by verey naturel smellynge he woot wel þat þe welpes ben his and þerfore he helpeþ to norssh hem but no þing goodly in to þe tyme þat she haþ whelpes. The wolf is fattast of al þe yere for he eteþ al þat he takeþ and al þat þe bitche and whelpes shuld ete, þe becche of hem bereþ ix. wekis here whelpes and somtyme iii or iiii daies more ones in þe yeere þei goon to her love and ben joly some men seyn þat þe bitche of hem bereþ no whelpes þe whiles her modir lyueth but þerof I make non affirmacion the bitches of hem han her whelpes as oþere tame bitches som tyme moo and somtyme lasse, thei han strength namely bifore [1] and euelle [2] þei be and stronge for somtyme a wolf shal wel sclee a cowe or a mare and he hathe grete strengthe in þe mouthe somtyme he shal bere in his mouthe a goot or a shepe or a yong hogge and nat towche þe grounde and shal renne so fast þerwiþ þat but ȝif mastifs or men on hors bak happe to renne bifore hym þe heerdes ne non oþer man on foot shal neuer ouyrtake hym þei lyuen of al maner fleissh and of alle karaynes and of alle maner vermyn, And þei lyuen nat long for þei lyuen not but xiii or xiiii yere thei han euel bytyng and venemous for þe toodes and oþere vermyn þat þei eten þei goon so fast whane þei ben voide þat men han late renne at hem iiii leeces of greihoundes eueryshon aftir oþere þe whiche myȝt not take one of hem for þei rennene also fast as eny beest in þe world and duren longe rennyng for he hath a long breeth. Whan he is long hunted with rennyng houndes he ne fleeþ but litel fro hem but ȝif the greihoundes or oþere houndes hast hym þe faster he fleeþ al þe Covert [3] as a boor and comonly by þe hie waies and comonly he gooþ to gete his liflode by nyght and sometyme by daye whan he is soor a hungred, And some þer be þat hunteþ at þe hert and at þe wilde boor and at the Roo buk and wyndeþ as fer as a mastif and takeþe houndes whan þei may. Ther ben some that eten children or men and ete noon oþere flessh fro þe tyme þat þei be acherned [4] with mennys flessh for rather þei wolde be dede and þei ben cleped werwolfes for men shuld be ware of hem and þei be so cawtelous þat whan þei assaien a man þei haue an holdyng vpon hem or þe men se hem and ȝif men see hem þei wil come upon hym so gynnously and with gret peyn the man may eskape that þei ne be take and slayn for þei can wondere wele kepe hem from eny

the bitch to nourish the whelps but when a wolf and a bitch are in fellowship and there are no wolves in that country by the natural smelling he knows well that the whelps are his and therefore he helps to nourish them but not well. At the time that she has whelps the wolf is fattest in all the year, for he eats and takes all that the bitch and whelps should eat. The bitch carries her whelps nine weeks and sometimes three or four days more. Once in the year they are in their love and are jolly. Some men say that the bitches bear no whelps while their mother liveth, but thereof I make no affirmation. The bitches of them have their whelps as other tame bitches, sometimes more, sometimes less. They have great strength especially in front,[1] and they be evil [2] and strong for sometimes a wolf will slay a cow or a mare as he has great strength in his mouth, sometime he will carry in his mouth a goat or a sheep or a young hog and never touch the ground with it, and shall run so fast with it that unless mastiffs or men on horseback happen to run before him, the shepherds nor no other man on foot will ever overtake him. They live on all manner of flesh and on all carrion and all kinds of vermin, and they live not long for they do not pass fourteen or fifteen years. Their biting is evil and venomous on account of the toads and other vermin that they eat. They go so fast when they are empty, that men have let run four leashes of greyhounds, one after the other and they could not overtake him, for he runs as fast as any beast in the world, and he lasts long running, for he has a long breath. When he is hunted long with running hounds he flies but little from them, unless the greyhounds or other hounds press him. He runs in the covert as a boar does and usually runs by the high ways. And generally he goes to get his livelihood by night, but sometimes by day, when he is sore ahungered. And there are some wolves that hunt the hart, the wild boar and the roebuck, and can wind as far as a mastiff, and take hounds when they can. There are some that eat children and men and eat no other flesh from the time that they be blooded [4] by men's flesh for they would sooner die. They are called wer-wolves, for men should beware of them and they are so cautious that when they assail a man they get hold of him before the man can see them, and yet if men see them they will come upon him so cunningly that with great difficulty a man will escape being taken and slain, for they can wonderfully well defend themselves from any harness that a man

[1] Probably "forequarters" are meant.
[2] G. d. F., p. 66, has "evil biting."
[3] He keeps to the coverts.
[4] Acherned, from O. Fr. *acharné*, to blood, from *chair*, flesh.