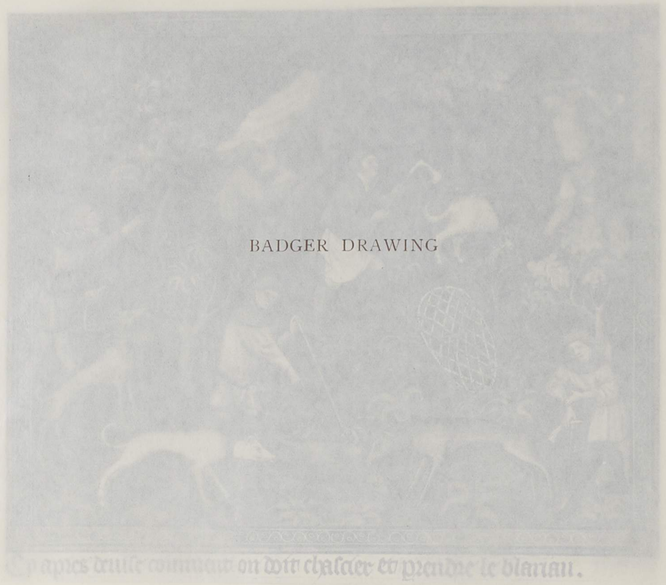
CAP^M IX^M—OF THE GREY AND OF HIS NATURE

THE grey is a comon beest inowe and þerfore me nedeþ not to telle of his makyng for þer ben fewe men þat ne haue sey some of hem, and also I take noon hede to speke myche of hym for it is no beest þat nedeþ eny grete maystrie to devise of þe huntyng of hym ne to hunt hym wyth strength for a grey ne fleeþ not but a litel way þat he ne is ouercome with houndes anoon or ellis he putteþ hym into þe bay, and þan is he slayn anoon his moost dwellyng is in þe erþe namely beries and ȝif he be out þerof he wil not walk fer þennes he lyueþ withe alle vermyes and kareyes and of alle fruytes and of alle þinges as þe fox but he dar not aventure hym so fer by day as þe fox for he can not ne may not flee. He lyueþ more by slepyng þan by ony other þyng. Onys in þe ȝeer þai farowe as þe fox[1] whan þai be hunted þei defende hem longe and myghtely and han euel byteng and venemous as þe fox and ȝit þei defende hem better þan þe fox. It is a beest of þe werld þat gaderith most grece withinne and þat is for þe longe slepyng þat he slepeth, and his grece bereþ medecyne as þat of þe fox *and ȝit wel moor*, Men seyn þat ȝif a Childe þat neuer þ^t neuer had wered shoon and þe first shon þat he shuld were were makyd of þe greyes skyn þat chyld shuld here horses of farsyn ȝif he shuld ryde upon him, but þerof make I non affirmacion. His flessh is not to ete ne þat of þe fox ne of þe wolf.

CHAP. 9.—OF THE BADGER AND OF HIS NATURE

THE badger is a common beast enough and therefore I need not tell you of his making, for there be few men that have not seen some of them, and also I shall take no heed to speak much of him, for it is not a beast that needeth any great mastery to devise of how to hunt him, or to hunt him with strength, for a badger can fly but a little way before he is overcome with hounds, or else he goes to bay and then he is soon slain. His usual dwelling is in the earth in great burrows and if he comes out he will not walk far thence. He liveth on all vermin and carrion and all fruits and on all things such as the fox. But he dare not venture so far by day as the fox, for he cannot flee. He liveth more by sleeping than by any other thing. Once in the year they farrow as the fox.[1] When they are hunted they defend themselves long and mightily and have evil biting and venomous as the fox, and yet they defend themselves better than the fox. It is the beast of the world that gathereth most grease within and that is because of the long sleeping that he sleepeth. And his grease bears medicine as does that of the fox, and yet more, and men say that if a child that has never worn shoes is first shod with those made of the skin of the badger that child will heal a horse of farcy if he should ride upon him, but of that I make no affirmation. His flesh is not to eat, neither is that of the fox nor of the wolf.

[1] G. d. F., p. 76, adds: "And they farrow their pigs in their burrows as does the fox."