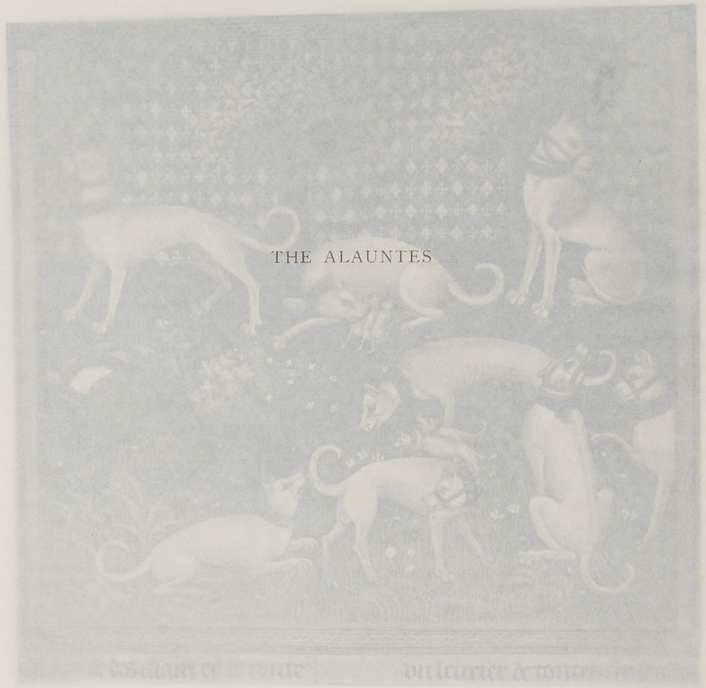
CAP. xvi.—OF ALAUNTES AND OF HURE NATURE

ALAUNT is a maner and nature of houndes, and þe good alauntz ben þe which men clepyn alauntz gentil,[1] other þer byn þat men clepyn alauntz ventreres,[2] oþer byn alauntz of þe bocherie, Thei þat ben gentile shuld be made and shape as a greyhounde evyn of alle þinges sauf of þe heued, þe whiche shuld be greet and short, and þouȝe ther alauntes of alle hewes þe verrey hue of þe good alauntz þ' is moost comon shuld be white, wiþ a blak spott about þe eerys, smale eyne and white stondyng eres and sharpe aboue. Men shuld teche alauntz bettir, and to be of better custumes þan eny oþer beestis, for he is bettir shape and strenger for to do harme þan eny oþer beest. Also comonly alauntz byn stordy[3] of here owyn nature and haue not so good witte as many oþer houndes haue, for if a man prik[4] an hors þe alaunt wil gladly renne and bite þe hors, also þei renne at oxen and at sheepe at swyne and to alle oþer beestis or to men or to oþer houndes, for men[5] han seyn alauntz sle here maystire. And in alle maner wise alauntz byn july felle and euel vndirstondyng and more foolish and more sturdy þan eny oþer maner of houndes. And men[6] seyn neuer þre wel condicions and good, for a good alaunt shuld renne also fast as a greihounde, and eny beest þat he myȝt come to he shuld hold wiþ his sesours and nouȝt leue it, for an alaunt of his nature holdeth faster his biteng þan should iii greihoundes þe best þat eny man may fynde, and þerfore it is þe best hounde for to hold and for nyme[7] al maner beestis and hold myȝtely. And whan he is wel condiciond and perfitly men[8] hold þat he is good amonge al oþer houndes but men fynden but fewe þat doon perfite. A good alaunt shuld loue his maistire and folowe hym and helpe hym in alle Cace and what þing his maister wold hym comaunde he shuld do. A good alaunt shuld goo fast and be hardy to nyme al maner beestis, wiþout turnyng and hold fast and not leue it, and wel condiciond and wel at his maistris comaundement and whan he is soche, men[9] hold as I haue saide þat he is oon þe good hounde þ' may be for to take al maner beestis. That oþer

CHAP. 16.—OF ALAUNTES AND OF THEIR NATURE

AN alaunte is of the manner and nature of hounds. And the good alauntes are those which men call alauntes gentle.[1] Others there are that men call alauntes veutreres,[2] others be alauntes of the butcheries. They that be gentle should be made and shaped as a greyhound, even of all things save of the head, the which should be great and short. And though there be alauntes of all hues, the true hue of a good alaunte, and that which is most common should be white with black spots about the ears, small eyes and white standing ears and sharp above. Men should teach alauntes better, and to be of better custom than any other beasts, for he is better shaped and stronger for to do harm than any other beast. And also commonly alauntes are giddy[3] of their own nature and have not such good sense as many other hounds have, for if a man prick[4] a horse the alauntes will run gladly and bite the horse. Also they run at oxen and sheep, and swine, and at all other beasts, or at men or at other hounds. For men[5] have seen alauntes slay their masters. In all manner of ways alauntes are treacherous and evil understanding, and more foolish and more harebrained than any other kind of hound. And no one ever saw[6] three well conditioned and good. For the good alaunte should run as fast as a greyhound, and any beast that he can catch he should hold with his seizers and not leave it. For an alaunte of his nature holds faster of his biting than can three greyhounds the best any man can find. And therefore it is the best hound to hold and to seize all manner of beasts and hold them fast. And when he is well conditioned and perfect, men hold[8] that he is the best of all hounds. But men find few that are perfect and good. A good alaunte should love his master and follow him, and help him in all cases, and do what his master commands him. A good alaunte should go fast and be hardy to take all kinds of beasts without turning, and hold fast and not leave it, and be well conditioned, and well at his master's command, and when he is such, men hold,[9] as I have said, that he is the best hound that can be to take all manner of beasts. That other kind of alaunte is

[1] The old spelling has been retained in the modern text, but in the notes *alaunt* is used. G. de F. says "there are some which are called Alauntes gentil, but not that the good alauntes are so called."
[2] See Appendix: Veltres and Alaunts.
[3] G. de F. has "estourdiz," which the "Master of Game" translates as "stordy" or sturdy, but the modern sense would be hairbrained, giddy, not sturdy.
[4] Means *chase* a horse. G. de F. says: "Se on court un cheval, ils le prennent voulentiers," p. 100.
[5] G. de F. says: "I have seen."
[6] G. de F. says: "I have never seen."
[7] Take or seize.
[8] G. de F. says: "I hold."
[9] G. de F. says: "I hold."