CAP. xviii.—OF MAISTIUES AND OF HER NATURE

Mastif is a maner of houndes.1 be mastif nature is bis and his office for to kepe his mastres beestis and his maistris hous, and it is a good nature of houndis for bei kepen and defenden at her power al her maistere goodes2 bei byn of cherlich nature and of foule shape nabelees ber byn some bat fallen to be berslettis3 and also to bryng wel and fast a wanlace4 about. Some tyme 5 per ben many good namelych for men bat hunten for profit of housold, as for to gete flessh. Also of maystifs and of alauntis6 per ben many good for pe wilde boor, Also of mastifs and of houndes for be hauke ber bene houndes þat men shuld not make mooch mencioun of perfore I uyl no more speke of hem, for it is of no greet maistrie ne of grete redynes pe huntyng pat pei don for here nature his not to be tendirly norshed.7

CHAP. 18.—OF THE MASTIFF AND OF HIS NATURE

A MASTIFF is a kind of hound.1 The mastiff's nature and his office is to keep his master's beasts and his master's house, and it is a good kind of hound, for they keep and defend with all their power all their master's goods.2 They are of a churlish nature and ugly shape. Nevertheless there are some that come to be berslettis,3 and also to bring well and fast and range about.4 Sometimes there be many good, especially for men who hunt for profit of the household to get flesh.⁵ Also of mastiffs and alaunts6 there are many good for the wild boar. Also from mastiffs and hounds for the hawk (there be bred) hounds that men should not make much mention of, therefore I will no more speak of them, for there is no great mastery nor great readiness in the hunting that they do, for their nature is not to be tenderly nosed.7

¹ In the Shirley MS. and in G. de F. (p. 115) the words "that every man knoweth" are added.

² See Appendix: Mastiff.

³ Bercellettis or bercelettes, hounds, most likely shooting dogs, from berser, to shoot, bercel, an archer's butt. (Hall. and Strat.) See Appendix: Bercelet.

⁴ Wanlasour, one who drives game. G. de F. (p. 115) has not this sentence, but says: "Toutesvoyes y en a d'aucuns qui chassent toutes bestes; mès ils ne rechassent pas." See Appendix: Wanlace.

⁵ Here G. de F. has: "Sometimes from mastiffs and running hounds there are bred many good hounds, especially for men that hunt for profit of household," &c. (p. 115).

6 Should read: "there be bred good hounds from mastiffs and alaunts."

⁷ Tenderly nosed, Shirley MS. This MS. has the additional words: "namelyche in harde neyer in sandye, neyber in dusty grounde in no cuntreys."

THE MASTIFFS WITH THEIR SPIKED COLLARS FOR WOLF HUNTING