CAPM. xix.—WHAT MANER AND CON-DICIONS A GOODE HUNTERE SHOULD

Tноw, sire, whateuer pou be grete or litel, pt wilt tech a man to be a good huntere, first be must be a childe passid vii. or viii. yere of age or litel elder, and if pat eny man wold saie pat I take a child in to tendre age for to put hym to trauaile, I answere pat alle natures shorten and descenden for euery man knoweth well bat a childe of vii yere age can more in bis time bat nowe is of soche þingis as hem likeb to lerne ban somtyme covde a child of xii yere, and berfore I put hym so yonge perto for oo craft requireth al a mannys lif or he be perfite perof. And also men sayn pt a man lernyd in yougth wil it hald best in his eelde and perfore to pis childe longen many pings. First pat he love his mayster, and his herte and his besynes, be on be houndes and most take2 hym and bete hym whan he wil not do pat his maister comaundeb hym in to be time bat be child be a drad for to faile, and first I shal teche hym for to take hym by writt al be names of be houndes and of be hewis of be houndes, in to be tyme bat be childe knowith hem both by hewe and bi name, after I wil teche hym to make clene euery day in be mornyng be houndes kenel of al foule bingis. After I wil hym lerne to put bifore him twies in be day fresshe water and clene of a welle, in a vessel ber as be houndes drynken or faire rennyng water in he mornyng or in he evenyng. Aftir I will hym pat onys in pe day he voyde pe kenel and make it al clene and remeve her strawe and putt agayn fressh new straw a greet dele and ryght pikke and per as he leip it pe houndes shull lye and be place beras bei shuld lye shuld be made of tre a foot hie fro be erthe and ban be strawe shuld be leide vpon bicavse pat pe moustenesse of pe erpe shuld not make hem morfound,3 ne engendere ober siknesse bi be which bei myght be be wors for huntyng, And also pat he be bop a feelde and at woode delyuered and wel eyed and wel avised of his speche and of his termys and euer glad to lerne and pat he be no boostour ne jangelere.

CHAP. 19.—WHAT MANNER AND CON-DITION A GOOD HUNTER SHOULD

Thou, Sir, whatever you be, great or little, that would teach a man to be a good hunter, first he must be a child past seven or eight years of age or little older, and if any man would say that I take a child in too tender age for to put him to work, I answer that all nature shortens and descends. For every man knows well that a child of seven years of age is more capable in these times of such things that he liketh to learn than was a child of twelve years of age (in times that I have seen). And therefore I put him so young thereto, for a craft requires all a man's life ere he be perfect in it. And also men say that which a man learns in youth he will hold best in his age. And furthermore from this child many things are required, first that he love his master, and that his heart and his business be with the hounds, and he must teach him, and beat him when he will not do what his master commands him, until the time that the child dreads to fail. And first I shall take and teach him for to take in writing all the names of the hounds and of the hues of the hounds, until the time that the child know them both by the hue and by the name. After I will teach him to make clean every day in the morning the hounds' kennel of all foul things. After I will learn him to put before them twice a day fresh water and clear, from a well, in a vessel there where the hound drinks, or fair running water, in the morning and the evening. After I will teach him that once in the day he empty the kennel and make all clean, and renew their straw, and put again fresh new straw a great deal and right thick. And there where he layeth it the hounds should lie, and the place where they should lie should be made of trees a foot high from the earth, and then straw should be laid thereupon, so that the moisture of the earth should not make them morfounder³ nor engender other sicknesses by the which they might be worse for hunting. Also that he be both at field and at wood active and quick with his eyes, and well advised of his speech and of his terms, and ever glad to learn and that he be no boaster nor jangler.

¹ G. de F. has the words in brackets, p. 116.

Here sense of G. d. F. p. 116 is preferable, the "take" is probably the scribe's mistake for tache, teach. 3 Morfondre, Old Fr. to take cold, glanders.