30ure hounde, bi cause pat 3e vndo not pe fourme of he foot and bloweh wih inne and dob he oher pinges as I haue bifore saide.1

First he shall speke but a litil and boost litel First he shall speak but a little, and boast little, and wel² and sotelly and he must be wise and doo and well work² and subtlely, and he must be wise his craft bisily for an huntere shuld not be an and do his craft busily, for a hunter should not be harowde of his craft, and if he happe pat he be a herald of his craft. And if it happen that he be amonge good hunters bat spekyn of huntyng, among good hunters that speaketh of hunting he he shuld speke in his maner, first if men aske should speak in this manner. First if men ask hym of pasturis, he may answere as of hertis and him of pasture he may answer as of harts and for for alle ober deere, swete pasturis, and of alle all other deer, sweet pastures, and of all biting bitteng beestis as of wilde boores, wolues and oper beasts as of wild boar, wolves, and other biting byteng beestis he may answere, bei fede as I have beasts he may answer, they feed as I have said said bifore and if men speke and aske hym of be before. And if men speak of the fumes ye shall fumes he shal clepe fumes of an hert cotyng of call fumes of a hart, croteying of a buck, and of be buk and of be Robuk of be wilde boor and of be blak beestis,4 an of Wolfes he shal clepe it lesses, and of hares and of conynes he shal saie bei croteb pat of he fox waggyng of he greie he werderobe and of ober stinkyng beestis he shal clepe it drit and pat of be oter he shal clepe spraytyng as bifore is saide, and if men asken of be beestis feete, of be hertis he shal saie be trace6 of an hert, and eke of pe buk, and pat of pe wild boor and of pe wolf eke bei clepyn traces by yondde be see, and bat of be stynkyng beestis bat men calle vermyn he shal clepe hem steppis, as I haue said, And if he hab say an hert wib eyn ber is iii maners of hewis of hen, pat oon is clepyd broun, pat oper jelow, and be iii dune, and so he may clepe hem as him binkeb bat bei beren her hues. And men aske what hede7 bereb the hert bat he hab seie he shal alway answere by euen and not by odde, for if he be fourched on be ryghte side and lak nouzt of his ryghtes8 bineth and on be righte9 side auntelere and Rialle and susrial and nouzt fourthe but only be beme he shall say it is an hert of x. at defaute10 for be most parte bereb be nombre euermore to evin, And euery beestis tynde shuld be rekenyd as sone as a man may hang a baudrike or a lessh 11 perupon, and non ober wise. And whan an hert bereb as many tyndes in bat oon side as in bat ober he may say if he be but fourched, bt he is an hert of x, and if he be troched of iii he is an hert of xii, and if he be trochid of iiii. he is an hert of xvi, if it be be so algate pt he hap pe rightes by nethe as bi forun is said, And if lak eny of his

your hands, so that ye undo not the form of the foot and blow within and do the other things as I have before said.1 (After I will tell you how a man shall speak among good hunters of the office of venery.) a roebuck in the same wise of a wild boar and of black beasts4 and of wolves ye shall call it lesses, and of hare and of conies ye shall say they crotey, of the fox wagging, of the grey the wardrobe, and of other stinking beasts they shall call it drit, and that of the otter he shall call sprainting as before is said. And if men asketh of the beasts' feet, of the harts ye shall say the trace of a hart and also of a buck, and that of the wild boar and of the wolf also they call traces beyond the sea. And that of the stinking beasts that men call vermin, he shall call them steps as I have said. And if he hath seen a hart with his eyes, there are three kinds of hues of them, that one is called brown, the other yellow, and the third dun, and so he may call them as he thinketh that they beareth all their hues. And if men ask what head7 beareth all the hart he hath seen he shall always answer by even and not by odd, for if he be forked on the right side, and lack not of his rights8 beneath, and on the right9 side antler and royal and surroyal and not forked but only the beam, he shall say it is a hart of ten at default,10 for it is always called even of the greater number. And every hart's tines should be reckoned as soon as a man can hang a baldric or a leash11 thereupon and not otherwise. And when a hart beareth as many tines on the one side as on the other, he may say if he be but forked that he is a hart of ten, and if he be troched of three he is a hart of twelve, if he be troched of four he is a hart of sixteen, always if it be seen that he hath his rights beneath as before is said. And if he lack

ryghtes ze mot abate so many in be toppe for an hertis hed shuld begynne to be discrived fro be mule 1 vpward, and if he have moo bi ii in oon side pan in pt oper ye must take from pt oon to count up pat oper wip I haue said, and it bonk hym an her chaceable, and men aske hym what hert it is he may say it is an hert of x. and of no more, and if it seme hym a and shuld not be refusid, And if he happe wel haue saie hym wib his eyen, or bi be forsaide tokenys, so bt fully he knoweb bt he is a greet hert and an hert may be, if men aske hym what hert it is, he may say a greet hert and an oolde deer and pt is pe grettest word pat he may say as I haue said bifore. And if men aske hym wherbi he knoweth it, he may say for be good boones2 and pe good taloun or good sool of foot for pise iiii3 pinggis makyn be trace grete, or fayre leires, or be gras or the erbe wel pressid, or bi be hie hede,4 or bi be fumes or al be ober tokenys bt he shal knowe as I haue said bifore. And if he se eny hert, be which hab a wel affeted hede aftir be hight and be shap and be tyndes wel irenged, bi good mesure, be oon from bat ober, and men aske hym what he bereb he may answere bat he bereb a greet hede and a faire of beme and of alle his rightes, and wel openyd, and if men aske hym what hed he berith he may answere bat he bereb a faire hede bi alle tokenys and awel ygrow, And if he se an hert pt hap a lowe hed or an hie or a grett or smal and it be bik isette hie and lowe,6 and men axe hym what hed he bereb, he may answere bat he bereb a bik sette hed aftir his makyng bat he hab lowe or small or of what ober maner bat euer it be, and 3if he se an hert bt hab a diuers hede or bt he hauntelers ben behynde or pt he had double beemes or ober aduersitees ban ober hertis hedis comonly ben wonned to bere, and men axen what hede he berethe, he may answere a diuerse hed, or a countirfethed,7 for he is counterfeted soo. And if he see an hert pt berith an hie hede pt is wide and thyn itynded wib longe bemes and men aske what hede he bereth he shal answere a faire hede and a wide and long bemes, but it is not bikke sette neiber wel affeted. And if he se an hert that

any of his rights beneath he must abate so many on the top, for a hart's head should begin to be described from the mule1 upwards, and if he hath more by two on the one side than on the other, al, as I shal moor clerly speke in a chapiter here you must take from the one and count up that after on discryueng of an hertis hede. And if other withal, as I shall more clearly speak in a it be so pt the hertis trace haue oper toknes pan chapter hereafter in describing a hart's head. And if it be so that the hart's trace have other tokens than I have said and he thinks him a hart chaceable, and men ask what hart it is he may grete hert and men aske hym whatt hert it is he say it is a hart of ten and no more. And if it seem shal say pt it is an hert pat the last yere was of x. a great hart and men ask what hart it is, he shall say it is a hart that the last year was of ten and should not be refused. And if he happen to have well seen him with his eye or the before said tokens, so that he knoweth fully that it is as great a hart as a hart may be, if men ask him what hart it is, he may say it is a great hart and an old deer. And that is the greatest word that he may say, as I have said before. And if men ask him whereby he knoweth it, he may say for, he hath good bones2 and good talons and a good sole of foot, for these four³ things make the trace great, or by fair lairs or the grass or the earth well pressed or by the high head,4 or by the fumes or else other tokens as I have said before. And if he see a hart that hath a well affeted head after the height and the shape and the tines well ranged by good measure, the one from the other, and men ask him what he beareth he may answer that he beareth a great head and fair of beam, and of all his rights, and well opened; and if a man ask him what head he beareth, he shall answer that he beareth a fair head by all tokens and well grown. And if he sees a hart that hath a low head or a high, or a great, or a small, and it be thick set, high and low and men ask him what head he beareth he may answer he bears a thick set head after his making, or that he hath low or small or other manner whatever it be. And if he see a hart that hath a diverse head, or that antlers grow back or that the head hath double beams or other diversities than other harts commonly be wont to bear, and men ask what head he bears, he may answer a diverse head or a counterfeit,7 for it is counterfeited. And if he sees a hart that beareth a high head that is wide and thin tined with long beams, if men ask what head he beareth, he shall answer a fair head and wide, and long beams, but it is not thick set neither well affeted. And if he see a hart that hath a

² Dew claws.

¹ A whole line is missing here in our MS. The words in brackets are taken from the Shirley MS. It runs: "Affter I wal telle yowe a man howe he shal speke amonge good hunters of y offyce of venerye."

² The word "work" has been omitted. "Et bien ouvrer subtilement" (G. de F. p. 134). ⁴ See Appendix: Wild Boar. 3 See Appendix: Excrements. ⁶ See Appendix: Trace.

⁵ See Appendix: Fewte.

⁷ See Appendix: Antler.

⁹ In Shirley MS. it is "left." 8 Brow, bay, and tray tines. See Appendix: Antler. 10 Instead of this original passage G. de F. says: "for if he had on one side ten points and on the other 11 G. de F. has "spur" instead. only one, it should be called summed of twenty" (p. 135).

¹ Burr, mule, from the Fr. meule.

³ According to Shirley MS. and the sense, the "iiii" should be omitted.

⁴ G. de F. (p. 136) says: "ou belles portées"—portées being the branches, and twigs broken or bent asunder by the head of the deer, termed "entry" or "rack" in mod. Eng. Stuart, vol. ii. 551. ⁵ Fashioned. See Appendix: Affeted and Antlers.

⁶ According to G. de F. p. 136 it should read: "Et s'il voit un cerf qui ait la teste basse ou haute ou gresle ou grosse et soit menuement chevillée et pueblée de corns et haut et bas."