ARMS—continued

called it. In this picture we see both kinds in the hands of the sportsmen who face the phalanx of enormous tuskers. The man in the left-hand lower corner is armed with a spear in which the cross-guard forms an integral part of the head, while in the three others the cross-guards, placed One of these "short shafts" in my little collecthere to prevent the spear penetrating too far into the body of the boar and thus bringing his deadly tusks into too close proximity to the hunter's arm, were attached by thongs of leather or bands of iron to the shaft. These cross-guards were lugs made of ivory, buck-horn or metal five or six inches long. The blade itself was usually leaf-shaped, two or three inches wide at the widest part and about eighteen inches in length. Very frequently the lower part of the blade was pierced with two trefoilshaped ornaments. The stout wooden haft, to afford a better grip, was usually ornamented in various manners; sometimes it was covered with fish skin, but the most usual manner was to wind spirally round the haft leather straps for two-thirds and occasionally for the full length, fastening them down with brass nails. Occasionally natural knots in the wood took the place of the leather thongs, or the latter were placed in addition to them. Sometimes, in the more common spears, the haft was carved with a scale pattern that prevented the hands from slipping. The length of the boar spear varied, presumably in accordance with the observed, the most amusing of which was the size of the hunter for whose use it was intended, from 6 ft. 3 in. to 6 ft. 10 in. or 7 ft. The bear spear were longer, both the head and the haft, and, any of the numerous then strictly enforced rules as a rule, they had no lugs. The heads of two fifteenth-century bear spears in my collection are $21\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length, and of very heavy and solid construction; the blade, also leaf-shaped, being rather wider than that of the boar spear.

A few words may be said here about another kind of javelin unrepresented in our plates. These were the spears peculiar to the Alps and employed for chamois hunting. According to the "Secret Instructions" written by Emperor Maximilian 1. for the use of his son, Schäfte of three lengths were to be always kept in readiness for royal use: the short ones, the medium, and the long ones. The latter were to be four klafter in length, so that if the klafter measured then, as it does now, six feet, they were of the absurd length of something like twenty-four feet! The pictures that accompany the text of another illustrated hunting book of Maximilian, edited by me and published for the first time in 1901, show that the longest spears were about from about 1310, its sheath being of beautifully twice the height of the men carrying them, and as there were different kinds of klafters—one used for measuring wood being only about three feet long it is likely that the drawings convey the correct dimensions. But even a twelve-foot spear would be most inconvenient to handle in mountainous regions did we not know from descriptions that these lances were used to kill "cornered" chamois that had taken refuge in inaccessible spots or on narrow ledges where they could not be reached

by shorter arms. There is a characteristic picture of this proceeding in the "Jagdbuch." The short spears, some eight feet in length, were used as javelins, and there are several pictures in "Theuerdank" and "Weiskunig" in which sportsmen are depicted in the act of ausfällen (throwing out) chamois. tion measures 7ft. 8 in. In the emperor's estimation sport was supreme, and it is curious to note his instructions to hang up the long spears in church organ lofts so that they should not lose their straightness.

The otter-spear still remains to be mentioned; of its shape and use our Pl. XIII. gives us a good idea. The picture needs no further description, except to note that according to Roy Modus otter hunters carried two-pronged spear-heads with them, which were so arranged that by putting them on the espieu they could improvise tridents. Of this the picture gives, however, no indication, for the two otter-spears there depicted do not appear to be improvised weapons.

To speak, in conclusion, of the smaller kinds of hunting arms, our plates contain but very little material, but the two additional pictures contain some of the principal kinds. The broad-bladed, spatula-shaped hunting knives in the left hand lower corner are Waidblätter, a species of hunting knife exclusively used for the "undoing" of stag or boar. On these occasions all kinds of ceremonies were "blading," viz., striking with the broad part of the blade the seat of any hunter who had contravened and regulations of venery. For this purpose the unlucky victim was laid across the body of a dead stag, a proceeding from which ladies in later centuries were not always safeguarded by their sex. The knife nearer the left edge is of French workmanship of about 1480, while the inner one dates from the end of the subsequent century. About this period the Germans began to make the Waidblatt of formidable thickness and weight, for the immense bags it became the fashion for princes to slaughter necessitated heavier tools. An ordinary one dating from the beginning of this "slaughter period," which I have in my collection, weighs over four pounds, and even heavier ones are in the Dresden museum.

The hunting knife hanging above the last-mentioned two specimens is of an earlier shape, viz., 1450, it being the hunting knife of Charles the Bold of Burgundy. Yet older is the knife on the right-hand side of Maximilian's sword, for it dates tooled cuir bouilli. To judge by its shape it was employed for the same purposes as was the French Waidblatt, i.e., for severing joints as one would with a chopper. The hanger, a kind of hunting knife called Hirschfänger, which is often confounded with the broad-bladed Waidblatt, was really a later invention, and was nothing more than a hunting sword of reduced size, with a blade from 12 in. to 26 in. in length, instead of some 34 in. or 36 in., as measured many of the real hunting swords.

¹ "Das Jagdbuch Kaiser Maximilian 1." Wagner's Universitäts Bibliothek Innsbruck, 1901. This MS. hitherto unpublished I discovered in the Royal Library at Brussels.

BERCELET, barcelette, bercelette, is a corruption of the O. Fr. berseret, a hunting dog, dim. of bersier, a huntsman; in Latin, bersarius, French, berser, bercer, to hunt especially with the bow. Bercel, biercel, meant a butt or target. Italian, bersaglio, an archer's butt, whence bersagliere, archer or sharpshooter (Oxford, and Godefroy D ct.).

Given the above derivation, it may be fairly accepted that bercelet was a dog fitted to accompany a hunter who was going to shoot his game a shooting dog. The "Master of Game's" allusion also points to this. He says some mastiffs (see Mastiff) become "berslettis, and also to bring well and fast a wanlace about." We might translate this sentence: "there are nevertheless some (mastiffs) that become shooting dogs, and retrieve well and put up the game quickly" (see note on Wanlace).

Jesse conceives bracelettas and bercelettus to come from brache, but that can scarcely be so, as we see the two words used together, as the following quotations will show:

"Parler m'orez d'un buen brachet. Qens ne rois n'ont tel berseret." T.M. i. 14404.

When the fair Ysolt is parting from her lover Tristan she asks him to leave her this same brachet, and says that no huntsman's shooting dog will be kept with more honour:

"Husdent me lesse, ton brachet. Ainz berseret à vénéor N'ert gardeé à tel honor Ibid. i. 2660. Comme cist sera."

A brachet (or scenting hound; see Appendix: Raches) might be a berseret or shooting dog, or a running hound. Although in the following record we find berserettis were employed in the chase of fallow deer, they may have hunted up the deer to the bows; any way we cannot consider that they were the ordinary buckhounds, for these are invariably referred to as canes currentes. "Domino rex mitit Alanum de Nevill et Rogerum Stopham cum canubus suis berserittis ad currendum ad damum in Foresta de Brehull" (1229, Cl. Rolls, Henry III.).

As we find that berceletz were sometimes expedited, we must conclude that they were not meant to run, i.e., chase game; and were probably used only to put it up or retrieve it when shot. In I Rich II. we find the appointment during pleasure of John Lovell as Master of the King's hounds called berceletz, giving him licence to expedite them (1377 Pat. Rolls Rich. II.).

Jesse quotes Blount's "Antient Tenures": "In the 6th of John, Joan, late wife of John King held a serjeantry in Stanhow, in the county of Norfolk by the service of keeping 'Bracelettum

deymerettum of our Lord the King," and Jesse thinks these might have been a bitch pack of deerhounds, overlooking the fact that it was only in later days that the words brache and rache were used for bitch hounds. As deymerettum meant fallow deer, the bracelettum or bercelettum deymerettum may be taken, l think, to mean those hounds that were used for buck-shooting (Jesse, ii. 21).

BERNER, bernar; O. Fr. bernier, brenier, a man who has the charge of hounds, a huntsman, or, perhaps, would be more accurately described as a kennelman. The word seems to have been derived from the French brenier or bernier, one who payed his dues to his feudal lord in bran of which bread was made for the lord's hounds. Brenage, brennage, or bernage was the tenure on which land was held by the payment of bran, and the refuse of all grains, for the feeding of hounds. Berner in its first sense meant finder of bran, then feeder of hounds. In Old French and Anglo-Norman metrical works it is constantly used for an attendant on hounds.1 Also in this sense in early English records, and it seems to have remained in use in England long after it had disappeared from the language of French venery. Gaston no longer uses the word berner, but has valet de chiens.

Frequent mention is made of berners in the records of our early Kings in connection with hounds. (Wardrobe Accounts, 6 Edward 1.; MS. Phillipps, 8676; and Close Rolls, 14 John, 1212, and 15 John, 1213; and 4 Henry III. etc.)

The word bernarius, Mid. Latin for berner, was translated by Hearne (Liber Niger, p. 357) as bearward; "Bernarius minister ad quem ursi canesque in Ursis venandis usurpati spectabant. Bern, ursa, Berne autem est pro Beren vel Bear." (?) One would have thought the context of those records where berners are shown to have been sent to the various forests of the kingdom with huntsmen and hounds to hunt stag, buck, and other beasts, would have made one hesitate to call berners bearwards, in spite of the seemingly plausible and learned derivation. Cotgrave gives bernage, with the meaning equipage, train, following, as the origin of berner; this bernage, or barnage, meaning the baronage, or barons, great vassals of a sovereign. Jesse in his note, vol. ii. p. 27, gives the derivation as from berser, to shoot. But the first given explanation is the most likely and accepted by the best modern dictionaries. (Oxford Dict.; Godefroy, Littré, Cent. Dict.)

BISSHUNTERS, furhunters. Our MS. (p. 41) declares that no one would hunt conies unless they were bisshunters, that is to say rabbits

¹ See T.M. iii. p. 84; the train of a King is described as travelling along a road in which there come among other attendants the berners:

"Vienent garzun, vienent vatlet Vienent Séuz, vienent brachet E li curlin e li veltrier E li cuistruns e li bernier E Mareschals e herberjurs," &c.