RELAYS—continued

The Abbots of St. Hubert possessed a famous breed of staunch hounds, six of which they sent yearly to the Royal kennels. From some of these hounds, they being staunch and slow, good limers were made and the last relay was also composed of them, hence the name, which would probably be continued even when the particular breed of hounds became extinct or no longer used for this purpose (De Noirmont, vol. ii. 453; Salnove, p. 75; Lav. xliii).

It happened of course sometimes that the stag was taken by the first hounds without the relays, this was called taking the stag "de meute à mort."

This was considered almost impossible by French veneurs unless it were at high Grease time, when the stags are heaviest. In the Royal staghunt described by Gace de la Buigne we are told that the King would not have a single relay slipped although the hart had got well away from his hounds, but ordered: Que sans relais soit pris à force.

The discontinuing of relays seemed to have been begun first in Normandy and probably about the same time in England. A French veneur of the 17th century, D'Yauville, when he heard of a pack taking their stags in this way at all seasons of the year, says sarcastically: je me contentai de le croire parce-que ces chiens merveilleux chassaient fort loin de Versailles. . . . Quelle ressource d'ailleurs reste il pour la réussite d'une chasse lors que tous les chiens decouplés tournent au change? ("Venerie," p. 111.)

In the 17th and 18th centuries a large number of horses and berners were posted with the different relays. In Ridinger's drawings we see huge cavalcades proceeding to their various stations or Stable stands. In the 14th century sport was conducted on a much simpler scale, especially in England where perchance the huntsman had on occasions to "foote it" as our MS. has it. Gaston, however, says the huntsman should have a second horse waiting for him at the relay.

In France the three relays of greyhounds which were used were called Levriers d'estrici.e., those which were first let slip; levriers de flanc, those that attacked from the side; and levriers de tête, those that bar the passage in front of the game or head it, terms that correspond with our vauntlay, allay, and relay. In the "Master of Game's" chapter on the wolf these relays of greyhounds are indicated (p. 33).

RIOT. The M. of G.'s statement on p. 41 that no other wild beast in England is called ryott save the coney only has called forth many suggestions as to the origin of this name being applied to the rabbit, and the connection between riot, a noise or brawl, and the rabbit. The word riot is represented in M.E. and O.F. by riote, in Prov. riota, Ital. riotta, and in all these languages it had the same signification, i.e., a brawl, a dispute, an uproar, a quarrel. (Skeat.)

Diez conjectures the F. riote to stand for rivote

and refers to O.H.G. riben, G. reiben, to grate, to rub (orig. perhaps to rive, to rend). From German, sich an einem reiben, to mock, to attack, to provoke one; lit. to rub oneself against one. Rabbit, which is in O. Dutch robbe, has probably

the same origin from reiben.

The etymology and connection, if any, between the two words rabbit and riot is difficult to determine. Some correspondence appearing in the Field, 6th March 1897, discusses this subject at length. The writer's contention was that the word riot is nothing more or less than an old word for rabbit, and that in applying it to tumult and brawling we are simply making use of an easy and ready metaphor afforded us by the

Afterquoting the assertion of M. of. G. given above that the coney only is called ryote, he continues:

"This is sufficiently explicit. But how are we to establish the identity of the ryote which is a synonym for cony with the riot which is a synonym for dissipation? Where is the mother term which shall bear witness to the etymological affinity between things so heterogeneous as the rabbit and debauchery?

"It seems to me that it is to be found in the current foxhunting phrase, 'run riot,' applied to hounds running off the true scent, often after a rabbit. The rabbit is pre-eminently the scooping or burrowing animal; indeed its older name of cony is derived by Prof. Skeat from that habit; and most of our terms of the chase we owe to the Normans, who were great hunters. There appears therefore good reason to suppose that ribote or rivote, as specifying a burrower or scraper, was old French for rabbit, and that whenever a young hound ran wild after a rabbit, we learnt from our Norman conquerors to speak of it as running rivote, or riot, absorbing the phrase subsequently just as we have absorbed many other of the ideas and idioms of our favourite sports into our every-day conversation, and applying it by analogy to young men pursuing a wild course of life, and hence naturally to wildness and uproar itself. Otherwise, why do we talk of running riot; and why do we never run drunkenness or dissipation or revolt or any other of its equivalents?

"The explanation of the existence of the French word ribote (meaning debauch, drunkenness), the origin of which M. Brachet states is unknown, may perhaps be that the Normans had begun to employ their hunting term in its simple but graphic metaphorical sense before they came over and settled in England."

Nevertheless, although the above seems at first a plausible suggestion, the idea that riot was the primitive name for coney and that hence came the word riot, a brawl or a dispute, will scarcely bear closer scrutiny. The old F. word riote, like the English riot, seems to have more connection with those words from which rout was derived, they all having the same meaning; compare Ang. Sax. Hrütan, hreótan, reótan, Icelandic rjōta, hrjōta, Swed. Ryta, a noise, a roar.

RIOT—continue d

Then the words riotta or riote of the Latin tongues (French, Prov., and Italian) had a similar meaning, and we can scarcely suppose that from Iceland to Italy the word riot for brawling was derived from a term of Norman venery, or from the fact of hounds running after rabbits. It is far more probable that the rabbit was called riot from producing a brawling when the hounds came across one. The term running in connection with riot may well be derived from a hunting phrase. Until now also we have been unable to find that such a word as rabote, ravote, was used in any O. F. or Ang. Norman Lit. for cony. It is only in the English language, in fact only in our M. of G. so far as we are aware, that we find the word riot applied to the cony. In French about this period we find it applied only in its signification of noise and dispute,

> "Se ton père te fait ryotte, Si lui metz sus qu'il rassotte." Roy Modus, fol. lxiv.

G. de F. says that if one takes spaniels out when one wishes to hunt with other hounds they will at once begin to bark and hunt after geese or oxen or goats and: il fera toute la riote, noise et tout le mal.

In conclusion, the French word riboter, above alluded to, signified debauch, drunkenness, and does not seem to have the same etymology as riot (see Littré), but to have been derived from an old Breton word which signified to beat milk, to make butter. On peut penser que, figurément, ce mot a été pris pour exprimer agitation, vie de cabaret, debauche de table. Riboter paraît l'équivalent de rebouter, bouter de nouveau, bouter sans cesse.

ROE. The error regarding the October rut into which G. de F. and the Duke of York fell was one to which the naturalists of much later times subscribed, for it was left to Dr. Ziegler and to Dr. Bischoff, the Professor of Physiology at Heidelberg, to demonstrate to the scientists assembled at the Congress of Naturalists and Physiologists at Bremen in 1843 the true history of the gestation of the roe, which for more than a century had been a hotly disputed problem. On that occasion it was shown with scientific positiveness that the true rut of the roe takes place about the end of July or first week in August, and that the ovum does not reach the uterus for several months, so that the first development of the embryo does not commence before the middle of December. What the false rut in the beginning of November (in G. de F.'s country in Southern France it is somewhat earlier, i.e., about the latter part of October) has to do with this highly singular physiological puzzle was not and has not since been shown with any degree of positive-

ness. Possibly it may have a quickening influence. The buck sheds his horns in October or beginning of November, though according to some English writers he sheds them in September.

The roebuck was called in his first year, a

pricket; second year, a gyrle; third year, Hemuse; fourth year, roebuck of the first head; fifth year, a roebuck and no more. Stuart in his glossary gives Brocard as the term to be used for a roebuck of the third year and upwards

and the stable at the stable s

The roe does not put on fat, as Gaston and our text say. It begins to cast its coat in May and by autumn it recovers its thick winter pile of dark hue. Turbervile and Blome have used this chapter with but few changes (Turb. p. 142; Blome, p. 87).

For hunting on horseback with hounds the roedeer presented few attractions to our ancestors. Their habit of "ringing" and breaking back deprived their chase of all those features prized by the Veneurs. For this reason none of the old authors devote much space to this beast. In my "Sport in the Alps" will be found a description of its chase on the Continent.

There are very few ancient records relating to the roebuck; one of the earliest we have found is in 15 Ed. I. (1286-7), when seven roebuck from the hay at Hereford were to be given to Edmund Earl of Cornwall.

"1282. 10 Ed. 1. Feb. 4, m. 7. To the justices in eyre for places of the Forest in Co. Hereford. Order to cause Blanche consort of Edmund the king's brother, to be acquitted for the taking of fifty roe buckes in the King's Hay of Hereford, when they have ascertained the number taken by the tallies made between her and William Butler, the King's bailiff there, as she took the roebuckes by the King's grant."

RUNNING HOUNDS AND RACHES. (F. chiens courants.) Under this heading we include all such dogs as hunted by scent in packs, whatever the game they pursued might be. They appear in the early records of our Kings as Canes de Mota, Canes currentes, and as Sousos (scenting hounds) (Close Rolls 7 John; Mag. Rot. 4, John Rot. 10; 4 Henry III.), and are mentioned specifically: as cervericiis, deimericiis, as Heyrectorum (harriers) or canes heirettes, and foxhounds as gupillerettis or wulpericiis (Close Rolls, 15 John).

The A.S. word Hundas, hound, was a general name for any dog; the dog for the chase in Anglo-Saxon times being distinguished by the prefix Ren, making ren hund.

Gradually the word dog superseded the word hound, and the latter was only retained to designate a "scenting" dog. Dr. Caius, writing to Dr. Gesner, remarks in his book: "Thus much also understand, that as in your language Hunde is the common word, so in our naturall tounge dogge is the universall, but Hunde is perticular and a speciall, for it signifieth such a dogge onely as serveth to hunt" (Caius, p. 40). (See Appendix: Raches.) Running hounds was a very literal translation of the French chiens courants, and as the descriptive chapter given in our text is as literal a rendering from G. de F. there is no information that helps us to piece together the