

*The Middle English Poem on the Names of a Hare*¹. By A. S. Ross, M.A. (Communicated by BRUCE DICKINS.)

I am an Hare, a beast of little strength,
Yet making sport, of loue and gentle gastes,
For running swift, and holding out at length,
I beare the bell, aboue all other beastes.

—*Turberville.*

At f. 168.r. of the Bodleian MS. Digby 86 there is a curious poem² in a hand which is usually referred to the late thirteenth century³. It

¹ I should like to express my thanks to Professor Bruce Dickins, for help of the most varied nature in this and the next article; to Professor Barbier, for having expended so much time and thought on the cywydd; to Professor I. Gwynn Jones (Aberystwyth), who first called my attention to the cywydd and sent me a translation—also some extremely interesting Welsh hare names not recorded in the standard dictionaries; to Professor Ifor Williams (Bangor) and Dr. J. Lloyd-Jones (Dublin) for their most kind assistance with the cywydd; to the Librarians of the National Library of Wales and the Cardiff Public Library for their kindness in sending me transcripts of manuscripts; to Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson (St. Andrews) and Mr. W. G. Branley for advice on the natural history of the hare; to Mr. J. E. E. Yorke (Master of the Craven Harriers) and the Hon. F. H. P. C. Wood (Master of the Christ Church Beagles) for advice on this and, particularly, on points connected with the hare's behaviour when hunted, to Professor F. M. Stenton (Reading) for information concerning ME. personal names; to Mr. N. Denholm-Young (of the Bodleian Library) and Professor Hamilton Thompson for advice on the palæography and provenance of the MS.; and to Stefanyja Olszewska for advice on Middle English and Norse.

² Published only in T. Wright and J. O. Halliwell, *Reliquiæ Antiquæ* i, 133-4 (reprinted—without translation or commentary—by G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, *Zoologist* IV, xv, 25-6). In his text Wright prints *th* for MS. *þ* as in *the* 1: MS. *þe*, in general *f* for MS. (initial) *ff*—in *stifelfot* 37: MS. *ffitel breke-forewart* 48: MS. *-fforewart*, *fnattart* 49: MS. *ffnattart* (but cf. *wint-swijit* 33), in general *v* for MS. (medial) *u* as in *hauest* 55: MS. *hauest* (but cf. *cū* 64); he has a capital in *Engleis* (heading) where the MS. has a minuscule, and a minuscule in *i-met* 1.19, *i-said* 55 where the MS. has *I*; further he has *nom* (heading): MS. *nouns*, *waldentie* 27: MS. *waldeneie*, *lerkere* 32: MS. *lorker worttrophere* 39: MS. *-croppere*, *man* 60: MS. *mon*.

³ The MS. is a miscellany written in a late thirteenth century hand (so Mr. Denholm-Young of the Bodleian Library kindly informs me; Professor Hamilton Thompson kindly examined a rotograph of our poem and reached independently the same conclusion as to the date of the hand). In different parts of the MS. the hand varies very slightly. On f. 205. v. there is an entry "*hic sunt nomina regum anglie*". At the foot of col. ii we read further "*Henricus tertius lvi annis et amplius*", and below it has been added (possibly in a slightly different hand) "*Edwardus filius eius x*". This would imply the year 1282. Mr. Denholm-Young has kindly called my attention to the fact that there occur in the Calendar (f. 71. v., lines 12-13, 19, 24), in a different hand, the entries:—"*obitus Amiscie uxoris symonis underhulle*"; "*Obitus Alexandri de grimehulle*"; "*obitus symonis underhulle*". The Amice referred to must be the daughter of Richard de Grimehulle and wife of Symon Underhulle; she was forty-four when her father died in 1308 (see *Calendar of Inquisitions* vol. V, no. 8). The Grimehulle family held part of the Sergeantry of Minton in Shropshire (see R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire* xii, 11). The MS. must therefore have had some close association with this part of the country by the early fourteenth century. There is nothing in the language of our text to militate against this conclusion as to the date and place of the MS. The gen. sg. *hare* 56 (< OE. *haran*) is of a type not common in ME. and would, like the syncopated 3rd sg. pres. ind. *i-met* 1 and the 2nd sg. pres. ind.

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contains a ritual to be observed on meeting a hare¹ and the central 44 lines (vv. 11-54) consist of 77 terms of abuse which are to be applied to it². The majority of these are ἀπαξ λεγόμενα and very obscure, particularly as they have no context. In NED., the only place where any discussion of the poem is to be found, these interesting words have not been adequately dealt with³. In the earlier

miztt 57, agree with the proposed early date. Welsh influence is very clear in the poem. This can be seen both in the general style and in the names themselves. The poem is in fact written in something very reminiscent of the Welsh *dyfalu* ("epithetical") style. As an Appendix I print a cywydd of Dafydd ap Gwilym's which shows striking similarities to our poem (see further special notes). This Welsh influence agrees well with the localisation in Shropshire. The number of probable Norse loan-words is proportionately large (: -*dinge* 35, *ffitel*-37, *lekere* 30, *lorkere* 32, -*roukere* 34, -*serd* 34, *skikart* 13, *skile* 60, *scot* 20, *sculkere* 33), but this fact is not necessarily in disagreement with the above conclusion as to place. There is nothing in the text which affords us any evidence as to where or when our poem was originally composed. The contents of the MS. are in French, Latin, and English and are listed by E. Stengel, *Codicem Manu Scriptum Digby* 86 (who, on p. 69, corrects Wright's errors *waldenle* 27, *worttrophere* 39, *man* 60). The English texts include such well-known ME. items as The Fox and the Wolf (Wells p. 183), Dame Siriz (Wells p. 178)—these two only in this MS., The Fifteen Signs before Judgment (Wells p. 328), and The Proverbs of Hendyng (Wells p. 377).

¹ A very detailed account of the hare (and also some discussion of coursing and hare-hunting) will be found in G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, *A History of British Mammals*, who (ii, 253) mentions our poem (he also states that "Westropp" [i.e. Mr. T. J. Westropp, the Irish antiquarian] told him that a "somewhat similar set of fanciful appellations existed in the Irish language"—but, although I have made diligent enquiry among the Irish specialists of Ireland and of this country, no trace of such a thing can be found); full references to the literature of the subject are given. I am much indebted to this work. The kind of hare referred to in our poem is, of course, the Common or Brown Hare, the *Lepus europæus occidentalis* of de Winton (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 250 ff.) and, in general, I use the word hare in this sense.

² The folk-lore of the poem is of interest; I shall discuss it in an article shortly to appear in *Folk-lore*.

³ These 77 names are of considerable lexicographical interest. Of them N.E.D. records:—(i) 30 as ἀπαξ λεγόμενα viz.—*babbart* 17.19 (s.v. *Babbart*), *ballart* 15 (s.v. *Ballart*), *breke-fforewari* 48 (s.v. *Break-I*, 1), *brom-hat* 24 (s.v. *Broom*. sb 6), *cawel-hert* 39 (s.v. *Cawel*), *chawart* 46 (s.v. *Chavart*)—read **chaulart*, *cou-arise* 42 (s.v. *Cove*. adv.), *deubert* 20 (s.v. *Deubert*), *deu-dinge* 35 (s.v. *Deuding*), *deu-hopper* 35 (s.v. *Dew* sb. 6), *fern-sittere* 38 (s.v. *Fern* sb. 2b), *ffitel-foot* 37 (s.v. *Fitelfoot*), *fold-sittere* 37 (s.v. *Fold*. sb¹. 3), *furse-cat* 25 (s.v. *Furze*. 4), *goibert* 21 (s.v. *Goidert*), *make-fare* 48 (s.v. *Make-fare*), *rou-lekere* 28 (s.v. *Roulekere*) *scotart* 11 (s.v. *Scotart*), *scotewine* 13 (s.v. *Scotewine*), *sid-lokere* 27 (s.v. *Sidle-look*), *skikart* 13 (s.v. *Skikart*), *soillart* 16 (s.v. *Soillart*), *stob-hert* 29 (s.v. *Stobhert*), *straw-der* 30 (s.v. *Straw*. sb¹. 14), *swikebert* 22 (s.v. *Swikebert*), *turpi*. 14 (s.v. *Turpin*), *walden-eie* 27 (s.v. *Waldeneie*), *west-lokere* 26 (s.v. *West-looker*), *wimount* 17 (s.v. *Wimount*), *wort-croppere* 39 (s.v. *Wort*. sb¹. 4); (ii) 2 as affording an unique sense to a word, viz.—*gras-hopper* 36 (s.v. *Gras-hopper*. 2), *wode-cat* 23 (s.v. *Wood*. sb¹. 10b, § *wood-cat*.a); (iii) 6 as affording the earliest quotation for a word, viz.—*gras-biter* 21 (for *Biter*), *liztt-jol* 38 (s.v. *Lightfoot*), *lorkere* 32 (s.v. *Lurker*¹), *pin-tail* 41 (s.v. *Pintail*), *sculkere* 33 (s.v. *Skulker*), *wint-swiff* 33 (s.v. *Wind*. sb¹. 30d)—and to these must be added *pollart* 49 (see note *ad loc.*). There are further:—(i) 16 words not recorded in NED., viz.—*brod-lokere* 24, *choumbe* 46, *euele-i-met* 19, *ffnattart* 49, *ga-bu-dich*

volumes the impression is conveyed that most of the words are not "real"; cf. the quotation for *bigge* 12:—"Bigge. Obs. rare. [Of unknown etymology and doubtful genuineness, like most of the words in the list quoted.] An alleged name of the hare". For many of the names no meaning is given and for most of them no etymology; they are often summarily dismissed with rubrics such as "a fanciful name for, or appellation of, the hare" (so s.v. *Turpin*).

Actually, however, nearly all the words yield to philological investigation. In particular, Modern English dialect, always so much neglected as a source of philological commentary on Old and Middle English texts¹, throws much light on them. Below I print the poem (from the MS.) and I add a philological commentary². Incidentally I discuss a few words indirectly involved the etymology of which does not seem to have been sufficiently treated³.

16, *go-mit-lombe* 45, *hare-serd* 34, *late-at-hom* 22, *long-here* 29, *make-agrise* 43 *momelari* 18, *sitte-stille* 40, *stele-awai* 18, *tirart* 14, *tourre-ho-hulle* 41 (see note *ad loc.*), *wite-wombe* 44, and two *fax.ley*, recorded only out of place in NED., *viz.* *gras-bitere* 21 (s.v. *Biter*), *heg-roukere* 34 (s.v. *Ruch*. v¹); (ii) 1 word affording a sense not recorded in NED., *viz.*—*wei-belere* 15, and 1 a sense not recorded in ME., *viz.*—*you-lekere* 28 (for *Row*. sb¹. 7b); (iii) 5 affording quotations for a word earlier than those in NED., *viz.*—*go-bi-grounde* 40 (s.v. *Go*. v. VIII), *lekere* 30 (s.v. *Laker*²), *scot* 20 (s.v. *Scut*. sb¹.)—see note *ad loc.*, *wei-belere* 15 (s.v. *Way*. sb¹. 40), *wort-croppere* 39 (for *Cropper*²), and 1 an earlier ME. quotation, *viz.*—*hare-serd* 34 (for *Sard*. v.); (iv) 1 affording an instance of the pejorative use of a proper name not recorded in NED., *viz.*—*bouchart* 12. In fact, of the 77 names, only 16 are *not* of special lexicographical interest.

¹ The work of Mrs. Joseph Wright forms a notable exception.

² Abbreviations of works cited:—Barrett-Hamilton = G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, *A History of British Mammals*; Bosworth-Toller = J. Bosworth and T. N. Toller, *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (Suppl. = *Supplement*); Brugmann = K. Brugmann, *Kurze vergleichende Grammatik der indogermanischen Sprachen*; Chevalier = U. Chevalier, *Répertoire des sources historiques du moyen âge: Bio-bibliographie*; EDD. = J. Wright, *The English Dialect Dictionary*; Falk-Torp = H. S. Falk and A. Torp, *Norwegisch-dänisches etymologisches Wörterbuch*; Franck = *Franck's Etymologisches Woordenboek der nederlandsche Taal* (2e Druk door N. van Wijk); Harrison = H. Harrison, *Surnames of the United Kingdom*; Hellquist = E. Hellquist, *Svensk etymologisk ordbok*; Jordan = R. Jordan, *Handbuch der mittelenglischen Grammatik*; Kluge = F. Kluge, *Nominale Stammbildungslehre der altgermanischen Dialekte* (3e Auflage); Langlois = E. Langlois, *Tables des noms propres de toute nature compris dans les chansons de geste*; Luick = K. Luick, *Historische Grammatik der englischen Sprache*; Master of Game = W. A. and F. Baillie-Grohman, *The Master of Game* (1904); NED. = J. A. H. Murray, H. Bradley, W. A. Craigie and C. T. Onions, *A New English Dictionary* (Suppl. = *Introduction, Supplement, and Bibliography*); Rolland = E. Rolland, *Faune populaire de la France*; Torp = A. Torp, *Nynorsk etymologisk ordbok*; Walde-Pokorny = A. Walde and J. Pokorny, *Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der indogermanischen Sprachen*; Wander = K. F. W. Wander, *Deutsches Sprichwörter-Lexikon*; Wartburg = W. v. Wartburg, *Französisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*; Wells = J. E. Wells, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1400*; Ysgyfarnog = Dafydd ap Gwilym's "Cywydd yr Ysgyfarnog" (see Appendix).

³ A study of the hare-names of other languages would doubtless afford many interesting semantic parallels to the names in the poem but, naturally, such an enormous work lies entirely outside the scope of the present article.

Les nouns de vn leure en engleis

Þe mon þat þe hare Imet,
 Ne shal him neuere be þe bet,
 Bote if he lei doun on londe
 Þat he bereþ in his honde,
 (Be hit staf, be hit bouwe),
 And blesce him wiþ his helbowe.
 And mid wel goed devosioun
 He shal saien on oreisoun
 In þe worshipe of þe hare;
 Þenne mai he wel fare:
 “Þe hare, þe scotart,
 Þe bigge, þe bouchart,
 Þe scotewine, þe skikart,
 Þe turpin, þe tirart,
 Þe wei-bctere, þe ballart,
 Þe gobidich, þe soillart,
 Þe wimount, þe babbart,
 Þe stele-awai, þe momelart,
 Þe cueleImet, þe babbart,
 Þe scot, þe deubert,
 Þe gras-bitere, þe goibert,
 Þe late-at-hom, þe swikebert,
 Þe frendlese, þe wodecat,
 Þe brodlokere, þe bromkat,
 Þe purblinde, þe fursecat,
 Þe louting, þe westlokere,
 Þe waldencie, þe sid-lokere,
 And eke þe roulekere;
 Þe stobhert, þe long-here,
 Þe strauder, þe lekere,
 Þe wilde der, þe lepere,
 Þe shorte der, þe lorkere,
 Þe wint-swifft, þe sculkere,
 Þe hare-serd, þe hegroukere,
 Þe deudinge, þe deuhoppere,
 Þe sattere, þe gras-hoppere,
 Þe ffitelfot, þe foldsattere,
 Þe liztt-fot, þe fernsattere,
 Þe cawelhert, þe wortcroppere,
 Þe gobigrounde, þe sittestille,
 Þe pintail, þe toure-tohulle;
 Þe coue-arise,
 Þe make-agrise,
 Þe wite-wombe,

e-tohulle: *MS.* toure hohulle.

belonging to a group of type *j* + vowel + guttural which is widespread in Germanic. (*b*) Mn.E. (slang) *chump* "fathead, silly ass" belongs to another autochthonous root. It is particularly interesting because it betrays its autochthonous origin by its phonology. It is not borrowed from French and it cannot have existed in OE. because the combination *č* + back-vowel is impossible in OE. Hence it must have come into existence at some later period. Autochthonous roots -- and I use this term to include also true imitative roots—play their part in the discussion of some of the words in the poem; see notes on *babbart* 17, *momelart* 18, *choumbe* 46, *ffnattart* 49.

(2) By far the most difficult problem of the text is afforded by the order of the elements in certain compounds. At first sight *deu-dinge* 35, *hare-serd* 34 appear to consist of a noun and the infinitive of a verb in an order which is the reverse of normal (*deu* sb. "dew", *dinge* inf. "to beat"; *hare* sb. "hare", *serd* inf. "to copulate"). This view is supported by the existence of Mn.E. dial. *ding-dew* (see note *ad loc.*). Such nonce-compounds are always difficult for they are in general only sparsely recorded in literature and we therefore have to rely almost entirely on the "Sprachgefühl" of native speakers. Thus my own Sprachgefühl tells me that I could refer slightly to an apothecary as a *wretched little sell-drugs* but not as a **drugs-sell*. The abnormal order might be explained philologically in three ways:—(a) *-dinge*, *-serd* may not be infinitives but nomina agentis. Against this it may be urged: (i) that *-ere*, *-art* are the normal suffixes for this type of noun at this date (the poem affords plentiful examples); (ii) that none of the theoretically possible *-an-* or *-jan-* nomina agentis from these two verb-roots of a form such that they would have given ME. *-dinge*, *-serd*¹ are recorded in ON. or OE,² and (iii) that if an *-an-* or *-jan-* nomen agentis to *serden* had existed we should expect it to have had the reduced ablaut-grade (Kluge §15)—hence ON. **syrði* or OE. **syrda*, **syrpa*—which would probably appear in our poem as **sird* and not as *-serd*. (*b*) The normal English order may have been reversed under foreign influence; this is impossible for neither in Norse, French, or Welsh³ do we find such compounds with the elements in the order under discussion. (*c*) There are admittedly a few verbs of the type Goth. *faihu-geigan* (Brugmann §369.A.2) in Germanic and *deu-dinge*, *hare-serd* may afford nonce-uses of the infinitives of such verbs as substantives. But such verbs are rare in Germanic and it is most unlikely that we should by chance have here two such verbs,

¹ i.e. ON. **dingi* (: gen. sg. **dinga*), **dinga* (: gen. sg. **dingja*), **dengi*, **dyngi*; **serði*, **sjarði* (: gen. sg. **sjarða*), **serði* (: gen. sg. **serða*); OE. **dinga*, **denga*, **dynga*; **seorda*, **seorpa*, **serda*, **serpa*.

² ME. *dingen*, *serden* are usually considered to be of Norse origin (: O Dan. *dinge*, Icel. *serða*); see E. Björkman, *Scandinavian Loan-words in Middle English* p. 207; R. Jordan, *Anglia-Beiblatt* xviii, 35-6.

³ The suggestion that *hare-serd* means "hare who copulates" and that it is modelled on Welsh formations of the type *dynes olchi* "washerwoman" (*dynes* "woman", *golchi* inf. "to wash") is too improbable to deserve more than a mere mention.

both in nonce-uses. The fact therefore remains that we have here two nonce-substantives of the *spit-fire* type, with an abnormal order of the elements for which we have no philological explanation. *Come-arise* 42 "get-up-quickly" is probably another one; in Mn F. *the get-up-quickly* would be quite normal as a nonce-substantive but *the *quickly-get-up* would be impossible. The only remaining explanations are either:—(A) that the author of the poem was so unacquainted with English that he could make a mistake as to the correct order of the elements in such compounds; in view of the rest of the poem this hardly seems likely—moreover in *stele-awai* 18, *sille-sille* 40 (and **awai-stele*, **stille-sille* like *come-arise*) he certainly has the correct order—or (B) that *deu-dinge*, *hare-serd*, *come-arise* (instead of **dinge-deu*, **serd-hare*, **arise-come*) afford a curious example of the well-known deliberate tabu deformation of names (cf. *pe der hat nammen ne-dar nemmen* 54). This, too, is a far from satisfactory explanation.

(3) The suffix *-art* (see NED. s.v. *-ard*) is extensively used in the poem to form pejorative nouns from verbs (*babbart* 17, **chouhart* 16, *ffnattart* 49, *momelart* 18, *soillart* 16, *tirart* 14) and nouns (*srewart* 50, *scotart* 11)¹. Most of these words, like so many others in the poem, are probably nonce-formations and the method of derivation is often rather loose. See further notes *ad loc.*

(4) Some compounds (again probably nonce-formations) are formed by means of well-known endings of proper names; thus *deu-bert* 20, *swike-bert* 22 < *deu* "dew", *swike* "traitor" + *-bert* (as in *Albert*, *Osbert*, etc.; *goibert* 21); *scote-wine* 13 < *scot* "hare" + *-wine* (as in *Edwin*, *Godwin*, etc.). This method of formation is well known in Germanic; cf. *ða nehebyrildas* "uicinas" [Lindisfarne Gospels] 139 < OE. *nēah-ge-būr* + *-hild* and see Kluge §52².

(5) Proper names are used referring to the hare³:—*bouchart* 12, *goibert* 21, *turpin* 14, *wimount* 17. In the two latter the pejorative connotation so often found with this use of proper names is clear and in the two former it was probably there also. See further notes *ad loc.*

(6) The seventy-seven names for the hare may be classified as follows:—

(A) Words meaning "hare": *hare* 11, *scot* 20—with pejorative suffix *scotart* 11, *scotewine* 13.

(B) General terms of abuse: (a) *srewart* 50 "scoundrel", *turpin* 14 "rascal"; cf. also *bouchart* 12, *goibert* 21 (see note 5); (b) *choumb* 46 "numbskull"; (c) *chiche* 47 "niggard".

¹ In *ballari* 15, *pollari* 49, *skikari* 13 the exact basis of the formation is not quite clear.

² The suffix *-art* mentioned above is itself of this origin, being ultimately (as **-harda-* (cf. OHG. *Regin-hart*, etc.) borrowed into French from Germanic (see J. Brück, *Revue de linguistique romane* ii, 49-50) and from French into English.

³ Of proper names used (not necessarily pejoratively) in English to denote the hare the following may be mentioned: *katie* (EDD. s.v. *Katie*); *malkin* (see note to *wode-cat* 23); *sarah* (EDD. s.v. *Sarah*. 2); *wat*, *watty* (EDD. s.v. *Wat* sb¹, NED. s.v. *Wat*²).

(C) Names indicating points in connection with the hare of a fairly obvious nature:—

(i) Physical characteristics:—(a) size (in comparison with the rabbit): *bigge* 12 “big?”; (b) stature: *shorle der* 32 “short animal” (see note *ad loc.*), *go-bi-grounde* 40 “dwarf”; (c) ears: *long-herre* 29 “long-eared” (see note *ad loc.*); (d) stomach: *wite-wombe* 44 “white-bellied” (see note *ad loc.*); (e) tail: *pin-tail* 41 “small-tailed” (see note *ad loc.*); (f) sight (see also below): *brod-lokere* 24 “starer” (see note *ad loc.*); *sid-lokere* 27 “looker to the side” (see note *ad loc.*); (g) smell: *ffnattart* 49 “sniffer” (see note *ad loc.*); (h) mastication: *momelart* 18 “chaulart” 46 “nibbler”; (i) gait: *liztt-fot* 38 “light-footed” (see note *ad loc.*), *ffitel-fot* 37 “with fidgety feet”; (j) speed, etc.: *wint-swiff* 33 “swift as the wind” (see note *ad loc.*); *virart* 14 “fast traveller” (see note *ad loc.*); (k) jumping, etc.: *lekere* 30 “frisker”, *rou-lekere* 28 “frisker of the hedge”, *shikart* 13 “frisker”; *leperre* 31 “jumper” (see note *ad loc.*); *deu-hoppere* 35 “hopper in the dew”, *gras-hoppere* 36 “hopper in the grass”; *coue-arise* 42 “get-up-quickly”; *wilde der* 31 “wild animal”—the two latter are transitional to (ii); (l) sitting: *sillere* 36 “sitter”, *sitte-stille* 40 “sitter-still” (see note *ad loc.*), *fold-sillere* 37 “sitter on the ground”; *fern-sillere* 38 “sitter in the bracken”; (m) skulking: *sculkere* 33 *louting* 26 “skulker”, *lorkere* 32 “lurker”; *heg-roukere* 34 “squatter in the hedge”; *stele-awai* 18 “slinker-away” (see note *ad loc.*).

(ii) Moral characteristics:—cowardice:—*couart* 47 *babbart* 17 “coward” (see notes *ad loc.*).

(iii) Haunts:—(a) dew: *deubert* 20 “fellow in the dew”, *deu-dinge* 35 “one who knocks the dew off”, *deu-hoppere* 35 “hopper in the dew” (see note *ad loc.*); (b) stubble, corn: *strau-der* 30 “animal of the stubble” (see note *ad loc.* and quotation in note to *fern-sillere* 38); *pe der ha wonep in pe cornes* 52 “the animal that lives in the cornfields”; *stob-hert* 29 “stag of the stubble”; (c) furze: *furse-cat* 25 “cat of the furze” (see note *ad loc.*); (d) broom: *brom-kat* 24 “cat of the broom” (see note *ad loc.*); (e) bracken: *fern-sillere* 38 “sitter in the bracken” (see note *ad loc.*); (f) grass: *gras-hoppere* 36 “hopper in the grass” (see note *ad loc.*); (g) woods: *wode-cat* 23 “cat of the wood” (see note *ad loc.*); (h) hedge: *rou-lekere* 28 “frisker of the hedge”, *heg-roukere* 34 “squatter in the hedge” (see note *ad loc.*); (i) paths, runs: *wei-betere* 15 “he who makes the runs” (see note *ad loc.*).

(iv) Food:—(a) *wort-croppere* 39 “cropper of the herbage” (see note *ad loc.*); *gras-bitere* 21 “nibbler of the grass” (see note *ad loc.*); (b) *cawel-hert* 39 “stag of the cabbages” (see note *ad loc.*).

(v) Analogies:—(a) *wode-cat* 23, *brom-kat* 24, *furse-cat* 25 “cat of the wood, broom, furze” (see note to *wode-cat* 23); (b) *pollart* 49 “cropped one” (see note *ad loc.*).

(D) Names referring to points in connection with the hare which are not altogether obvious (see notes *ad loc.*): *purblinde* 25 “of defective vision” (also *walden-eie* 27 “wall-eyed”, *west-lokere* 26 “the blar-eyed”); *soillart* 16 “filthy beast”; *ballart* 15 “white-spotted

one"; *frendlese* 23 "solitary", *þe der þuð all men vengas* 53 "the animal that scorns all men"; *hare-serd* 31 "copulating hare"; *go-oi-dich* 16 "one who avoids the ditches"; *þu var lo hulle* 42 "run to the hills"; *go-mit-lombe* 45 "run-with-the-lamb"; *late at vinn* 22 "late home"; *þe hert wip þe leperene hornes* 51 "the stag with the beathery horns" (also *cawel-hert* 39 "stag of the cabbages", *stuch þe* 29 "stag of the stubble").

(E) Names of folk-lore import which I have not annotated fully here but which I shall deal with in *Folk-lore: each and* 19 "one ill-bad luck to meet"; *make-fare* 48 "one who makes people ill"; *mette agrise* 43 "one who makes people shudder"; *þe der þuð no man dare nemnen* 54 "the animal that no one dare name"; *winn* 17 *skikart* 22 "traitor", *breke-fforewart* 48 "covenant-breaker" (and see note *ad loc.*)¹.

SPECIAL NOTES

6 and *blesce him wip his helbowe.*] to be treated in *Folk-lore*.

11 *hare.*] "hare" (note 6§A above).

scotart.] "hare" (note 6§A above); only here (NED. s.v. *Scotart*) < *scot* (v. 20) "hare" + *-art* (note 3 above).

12 *bigge.*] NED. (s.v. *Bigge*) separates this from *Big*, adj. But the obvious explanation is possible—the comparison being with the rabbit. Rabbits were only introduced comparatively recently into the British Isles but they were certainly well known here by the year 1200 (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 185). For the comparative size of hares and rabbits see Barrett-Hamilton ii; 199-201, 265-9. Otherwise the word remains obscure, connection either with Mn.Du. *big* "jump" (cf. *soillart* 16?) Mn.HG. dial. *bick* "castrated swine" (of obscure etymology—see Franck s.v. *Big*) or with Mn.Norw. *byglen* "shivering with cold" (Torp s.v. *Byglen*) is just possible but not probable.

bouchart.] proper name (notes 5, 6§B(a) above) = OFr. *Bouchart* (Langlois p. 107); not in NED.

13 *scolewine.*] "hare" (note 6§A above); only here (NED. s.v. *Scotwine*); < *scot* (v. 20) "hare" + *-wine* (note 4 above).

skikart.] only here; an *-art* derivative (note 3 above); NED. (s.v. *Skikart*) tentatively suggests derivation from *Skick*, *Skeck* v. "to make a raid on; to spoil, plunder". But, more probably, the meaning is "the frisking one" (cf. note 6§C.i(h) above); cf. Mn.E. dial. (Scotland) *skick* v. "of cattle: to jump about in a lively way" (EDD. s.v. *Skick*). This word is probably of Norse origin; cf. Icel. *ganga skykkjum* "to move up and down (as of the earth)" Mn.Icel. *skykkur* "shaking". The Icelandic word is not mentioned in Walde-Pokorny but it is probably cognate with Icel. *skaka* Mn.E. *shake* to the root (s)qeq/g- (Walde-Pokorny ii, 557).

¹ As further folk-lore points I should mention (a) the tenour of the poem as a whole and (b) (very doubtfully) the arbitrary tabu-deformation of **ard* 2. *dwu*, **serd-hare*, **arise-coue* to *deu-dinge* 35, *hare-serd* 34, *coue-arise* 42 (see note 2 above).

14 *turpin*.] only here (NED. s.v. *Turpin*); cf. Mn.E. dial. (Yorkshire) *turpin* adj. or sb. "wicked (one)". EDD. (s.v. *Turpin*, adj.) suggests that the word alludes to Dick Turpin. But probably it is merely an example of the pejorative use of proper names (notes 5, 6§B(a) above)¹; it is the OFr. name *Turpin* (Langlois p. 655) also used in the sense "kind of soldier, highwayman". Dick Turpin was an historical person (*Dictionary of National Biography* s.v. *Turpin*, *Richard*) and the appropriateness of his name to his nefarious activities is thus accidental. It is impossible to decide whether *turpin* here means "highwayman" (cf. Ysgyfarnog 13 *her-wreic* "female plunderer"), with reference to the hare's depredations on gardens and shrubberies (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 279—and cf. Ysgyfarnog 34-5) or merely "rascal" in general.

tirart.] not in NED.; an *-art* derivative (note 3 above), possibly to OFr. *tirer* "to go, travel". It is perhaps a reference to the phenomenal speed of the hare (cf. *wint-swiffl* 33) and its power of covering the ground—hence meaning "the fast traveller" (cf. Ysgyfarnog 6 *kyvlym-deith* "rapid-faring one"; *esgut dayar* 30 "swift one of the ground"; *kath hir-deith* 15 "cat of the long journey"). The Master of Game is fairly accurate as to this (p. 10):—"An hare shal dure wel iiii myle or more or lasse and she be an olde hare mascle". In 1789 a hare is stated to have covered 20 miles before harriers and, although this is probably an exaggeration, straight runs of five or six miles are not uncommon (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 277).

15 *wei-betere*.] NED. (s.v. *Way*, sb¹. 40) gives two quotations for *way-beater* in the sense "one who frequents the highway for felonious purposes?" from 1586 and 1694. Our quotation is not given; "highwayman" would theoretically be possible here (cf. *turpin* 14?) on the assumption that it is a reference to the hare's depredations on flower-gardens, kitchen-gardens and shrubberies (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 279—and cf. Ysgyfarnog 34-5). But one of two other senses is more probable:—(i) "the one who goes along the roads", with *beat* as in *to beat the streets* "to walk up and down" (NED. s.v. *Beat*, v¹. 3). The hare exhibits a peculiar tendency to run along roads or railways, often going so far along them that it loses its way (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 270); or (ii) "the one who treads the paths bare", with *beat* as in *to beat a path* or *track* "to tread it hard or bare by frequent passage" (NED. *loc. cit.*). Hares (and even more so, rabbits) habitually travel over the same ground in going to their feeding-places so that the herbage over which they pass becomes worn down and a recognisable path or run is formed. The animals proceed by a series of leaps and, if undisturbed, not only do they use particular tracks, but they generally make a leap of about the same length at the same place. The result is that the ground where they alight is worn bare, while

¹ Professor F. M. Stenton kindly informs me that the name *Turpin* is well recorded in ME. times; it is also quite common in Mn.E. (e.g. there are 36 entries s.v. *Turpin* in the current issue of the *London Telephone Directory*); see also Harrison s.v. *Turpin*.

the herbage has an opportunity of growing at the intermediate places which they leap over in their stride, thus giving a very characteristic appearance to the run (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 170). The technical name for these hare-runs was *muse* (see *Master of Game* p. 147, NED, s.v. *Meuse, Muse*).

ballart.] only here (NED, s.v. *Ballart*). Hardly = Mn.E. dial. *ballard* "castrated ram" (EDD, s.v. *Ballard*)¹— unless some allusion to the hare's reputed bisexuality is intended (this was widely believed in until recent times—cf. Ysgyfarnog 9 *gwr-wreic* "hermaphrodite" and see Barrett-Hamilton ii, 240)—but rather an *-art* derivative (note 3 above) to early Mn.E. *ball* "white streak or spot" (NED, s.v. *Ball*, sb³. 1) Mn.E. dial. *ball* "a name given to a white-faced horse", *ballie* "pie- or skew-bald (of a horse)" (EDD, s.v. *Ball*, b³) Mn.E. *bald* "white-faced, having a white streak down the face" (EDD, s.v. *Bald*, adj. 1)—and cf. further M.Ir. *ball* "spot", etc. (Walde-Pokorny ii, 175). Hence, "the white-spotted one". White spots on the forehead are rather frequent in all the British Leporidae and are by some regarded as indicative of youth, by others of maturity; they actually appear to be characteristic both of the very young and the very old. A fanciful notion that they are connected with the number of young in a litter does not appear to possess any real value (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 164). When the face is spotted with white, there may be in extreme cases a white forehead in the hare (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 263).

16 *go-bi-dich*.] not in NED. Philologically this word could either mean "one who goes by the ditches", with *by* "along" (NED, s.v. *By*, prep. 14) or the reverse, "one who avoids the ditches", with *by* "missing, avoiding" (NED, s.v. *By*, prep. 16b). Hares do not normally go in ditches (*teste* Mr. Yorke)—the reason doubtless being that the leporine foot is, by its structure, particularly unsuited to wet, sticky ground, soon becoming clogged (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 162), but will sometimes conceal themselves thus when hard-pressed (*teste* Mr. Wood).

soillart.] "filthy beast" (cf. Ysgyfarnog 44 *budrog* "filthy"), only here (NED, s.v. *Soillart*); < *soil* v. + *-art* (note 3 above)²; cf. OFr. *soillart* "filthy fellow". The reference is probably to the popular view as to the hare's excretory habits; cf. *Master of Game* p. 103 *for euere she fumeþ or croleieþ* (and see note on p. 146), *Boke of Saint Albans* (facsimile edition by W. Blades) f. ij. "Why the hare fumays and croteis".

¹ This probably to Mn.E. *ball* "testicle" (this sense omitted in NED.—cf. *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* xxxv, 129 note 1).

² EDD records *Soil*, sb³, "the scent of a hare", but it is perhaps no more than a coincidence that we are thus reminded of *soillart*; the dialect word probably has the sense-development "droppings" (NED, s.v. *Soil*, sb³. 8 "ordure, excrement") > "track, scent"; cf. Mn.E. (American) *sign* "the trail or track of wild animals, etc." (as in *bear-sign* "the track of a bear")—see NED, s.v. *Sign*, sb. 7d, Suppl., *loc. cit.* and s.v. *Bear*, sb⁴, 10.

17 *wimount*.] proper name (note 5 above); only here in NED. (s.v. *Wimount*)¹. The name clearly had associations with treachery (cf. *swikebert* 22, *breke-fforewart* 48)—see A. M^eI. Trounce, *Athelston* p. 28; also G. Taylor, *Leeds Studies in English and Kindred Languages* iii, 20–1; *Times Literary Supplement* 1933, p. 674. For the name *Wymond* see Harrison s.v. *Wymond*.

17.19 *babbart*.] only here. It is very difficult to determine the meaning of this word, because of the lack of context and the presence of an autochthonous root (note 1 above) widespread in Germanic (Franck s.v. *Babbelen*) and Romance (W. Meyer-Lübke, *Romanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* (3e Auflage) s.v. 852. *bab*, Wartburg s.v. *bab*). Ultimately *babbart*, whatever its origin, must be formally identical (notes 3 and 4 above) with Mn.Du. *babbaard* “slobbering child” but semantically the Dutch word does not help. Of possible suggestions the following deserve mention:—(i) term of abuse implying simplicity (cf. *choumbe* 46 ?); cf. Mn.Fris. *babbe*, *babke* “futile woman”; (ii) “bungler”; cf. Mn.Iccl. *bab* “mismanagement”—in this case there is the possibility of the word being a Norse loan-word; (iii) “cheat” (cf. *breke-fforewart* 48); NED. (s.v. *Babbart*) suggests this and compares Mn.E. *bob* “to make a fool of, deceive, cheat”. But if, as NED. (s.v. *Bob*, v¹.) suggests, and as seems possible, ME. *bobben* is from French (: OFr. *bober* “to befool, mock”), we cannot account for the *a* in *babbart*²; for there are no appropriate forms with *a* and this meaning in French. (iv) The best suggestion is that the word is a French loan-word and means “coward” (cf. *couart* 47; *osgordd ofn* “with a retinue of fear” *Ysgyfarnog* 34); cf. OFr. *babber* (ἄπ. λει.) “to yield in a cowardly manner”³.

18 *stele-awai*.] “slinker-away” (note 6§C.i(m) above); not in NED. A hare when slightly alarmed in the open may endeavour to conceal itself by squatting close to the ground, by skulking away with depressed ears, or it may at once take to flight (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 272).

momelart.] not in NED; an *-art* derivative (note 3 above). The root is autochthonous (note 1 above)—see Franck s.v. *Mummelen*; possible suggestions are:—(i) “mumbler (of food)” to Mn.E. *mumble*; this is not very probable; (ii) “the bewildered one” (note 6§C.ii above); cf. Mn.E. dial. *momble* “to confuse, to puzzle; to wander mentally”, *mombledy* adj. “bewildered, troubled”; *to be in momble*, *to be in momble's meadow* “to be in a difficulty, to be puzzled, bewildered” (EDD. s.v. *Momble*); (iii) “cheat” (cf. *breke-fforewart* 48); cf. Mn.Du. *mompfen* “to cheat, betray”; (iv) (most probably) “nibbler”

¹ NED. accepts the usual derivation from OE. *Wīg-mund* but the word *might* - OFr. (Norman) *Guitmond* (*Wimundus*)—see Chevalier pp. 1993, 4777.

² *bab*- cannot be taken as a phonological variant of *bob*- as NED. (s.v. *Babbart*) suggests.

³ F. Godefroy, *Dictionnaire de l'ancienne langue française* i, 544 (to the root *bab*- mentioned above—see Wartburg i, 193).

(cf. **chaulart* 46); cf. Mn.HG. dial. *mappel* in *Der Hase, ein König-has¹, memmelt* (J. A. Schmeller, *Etymologische Wörterbuch* 1598). cf. ME. *mappekyn* "young rabbit" Mn.E. dial. *mappe* "rabbit" *mapsie* "young hare" (NED. s.v. *Map*, sb., EDD. s.v. *Map*, sb.) *map* v. "to nibble" (EDD. *loc. cit.*).

[19 *euele-i-met.*] "the one it is bad luck to meet" (note 68F above), not in NED.

babbart.] As none of the epithets are repeated it is probable that this is an error due to the scribe copying the word from a list. To suggest an emendation would be profitless.

[20 *scot.*] cf. also *scolart* 11, *scotewine* 13. It is hardly probable that this is the name *Scot* although at this period the *Scots* were certainly much abused. A good example of an abusive poem against the *Scot* (by Minot) is conveniently accessible in K. Sisam, *Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose* XIV.A; cf. also T. Wright, *The Political Songs of England* p. 392: *skiterende Scottes* (cf. *soillart* 16?). NED. (s.v. *scot*, sb².) separates our word from *scut* "hare" (*Scut*, sb¹, 2) and regards it the same word as *scol* "name for a horse" (Chaucer—see also EDD. s.v. *Scot*, sb¹, 2); our quotation stands alone under its rubric. For etymology NED. compares Icel. *Skolti* "a nickname for a horse whose body and tail are of different colours". Actually there is no reason for separating our *scot* (hence *scōt*) and Mn.E. *scut* "hare" (cf. note 68A above) and we have therefore an early quotation for the word—the earliest in NED. is from the *Promptorium Parvulorum*. There remains the etymology of Mn.E. *scut*. The word occurs in two chief senses: (i) "tail—especially that of a hare or rabbit"; (ii) our sense, "rabbit" (NED., EDD. s.vv. *Scut*, sb¹.). NED. and EDD. assume that the two senses belong to the same word but this is by no means certain. The *sk* would suggest Norse origin of the word(s) and for the first sense, "tail", there is a satisfactory etymology: Icel. *skutur* "stem (of a ship)" Faroese *skutur* Mn.Norw. *skot*, *skut* Mn.Sw. dial. *skot* "stem or prow"; Mn.Icel. *skott* "tail (especially of a fox or dog)" and cognate with Icel. *skjóta* (Torp s.v. *skūt*) with the sense of "something jutting out"². With regard to the sense "hare", it is true that the sense-development may be *via* "tail" (and hence that Mn.E. *scut* "tail" and *scut* "hare" are correctly regarded as being the same word), cf. Mn.Icel. *Skolti* "(name for) a horse with a white tail" (quoted by NED. as above from R. Cleasby and G. Vigfusson, *An Icelandic-English Dictionary* s.v. *skotta*), *sköttótlur* "having a white tail (of horses)"; but the element *skot-/skut-* (to Icel. *skjóta*) is very widespread in Norse and is found with many different meanings (see Torp s.v. *skot* 1, *skot* 3, *skot* 5, *skôt* 2, *skota* 1, *skota* 2, *sköta* 3, *skota* f. 4, *skot* 5, *skotning*, *skotra* 1, *skotung*, *sküt*, *sküta* 1, *sküta* 2, *skuta*, *skutel*, *skutla* 2, *skutla* 3); it is therefore possible that the sense-development to "hare" is along a different route (and hence that Mn.E. *scut* "tail" and *scut* "hare" are really different words)—possibly *via* the quick, scurrying

¹ "rabbit."

² NED. s.v. *Scut*, sb¹, mentions this etymology but rejects it without any reason.

gait of the hare; cf. Mn.E. *scuttle*, *scutter* Mn.E. dial. *scut* v. (Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire, East Anglia—hence an area where a word might well be Norse) “to make short hurried runs; to scamper away; to run without being seen” (EDD. s.v. *Scut*. v².): Mn.Norw. *skot(t)a* “to rush carelessly, violently and noisily forward, to wander a long way off by oneself (of cattle)” (Torp s.v. *skota* 5), *skôt* “animal which runs away from the flock” (Torp s.v. *skôt* 2), *skot(a)* “romping girl” (Torp s.v. *skot* 5).

deubert.] “fellow in the dew” (cf. *deu-dinge*, *deu-hoppere* 35); only here (NED. s.v. *Deubert*); < *deu* “dew” + *-bert* (note 4 above).

21 *gras-bitere*.] “nibbler¹ of the grass” (cf. *wort-croppere* 39); only here (NED. s.v. *Biter*—and as the earliest quotation for this word). The hare is particularly fond of the mixture known as grass—its favourite is apparently the hard fescue, after which come the common meadow and blue heath grasses (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 279).

goibert.] proper name (note 5 above); only here in NED. (s.v. *Goibert*); either *göibert* < OFr. *Guibert* (Langlois pp. 302–3) or *goibert* < OFr. *Goisbert* (Chevalier p. 1824).

22 *late-at-hom*.] “late home”; not in NED. This may be a reference either to the hare’s trick of doubling back to its starting-point when hunted (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 275) or to its habit of taking a long time returning from pasture to form; cf. Master of Game p. 11: — “Whan an hare ryseþ out of here fourme for to go to hure pasture or ryseþ agayn to hure sitting comonlich by oon way, þere as she goþ she wil suffre no tywge ne no grasse þe which may touche hure for rathere she brekiþ it tethe and makeþ hure way. Som tyme she sitteþ from hure here pastureng a myle or more, and somtyme nye hure pasture. But whan she sitteþ nye it shal not be þat she ne shal go about the mountance of half a myle or more from þennes þat she shal I-pastured (*sic*), and þan she reuseþ agayn fro hure pasture, and whider she go sitt nye or ferre from hure pasture she gooþ to gynously and wyleli þat ther nys no mann in this world þat wold say that ony hounde myght vndo þat she hath doon, ne þat shuld fynde hure. For she shal go a bowe shot or more by o way, and ryse agayn by anoþer, and þan she shal take hure way by anoþer syde, and þe same shal she do x. or xii. or xxⁱⁱ tymes, from þennes she shal come to sume hegge or stroughth and shale make semblaunt perto abide, and þer she shal make crosse waies x. or xii. tymes and þer she shal make hure ruses from þens she shal take som fals bypath, and shal thens a gret way and such semblaunt she shal make many tymes or þ^t she go to hure sutyng”.

swikebert.] “traitor” (cf. *wimount* 17, *breke-fforewart* 48); only here (NED. s.v. *Swikebert*); < ME. *swike* “traitor” + *-bert* (note 4 above).

23 *frendlese*.] “friendless; this might mean that everyone dislikes the hare. But more probably it refers to the solitary habits of the animal (cf. *þe der þat alle men scornes* 53). Ordinarily hares are

¹ For this sense of *bite* see NED. s.v. *Bite*. v. 5.

solitary animals—in contradistinction to rabbits (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 167). Exceptionally—e.g. during the sexual season or when attracted by special food—they become gregarious but even then they always separate when chased (Barrett-Hamilton ii; 229, 270).

wode-cat.] “cat of the wood”¹; only here in this sense² (NED. *loc. cit.*); possibly < Welsh *cath y coed* “hare”. The use of cat names for the hare (as here and in *brom-kat* 24, *furse-cat* 25 < Welsh *cath eithin* “hare”) is very common (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 241) and also very natural; cf. Mn.E. *puss* “quasi-proper name for a hare” (NED. s.v. *Puss*. 2a); Mn.E. dial. *bawd* “hare” beside *baudrons*³ “a familiar name for a cat; puss” (EDD. s.vv. *Bawd*. sb¹., *Baudrons*) *malikin* “cat” beside *mawkin* “hare”, a diminutive to the proper name *Matilda* (and *Mary*—see C. W. Bardsley, *A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames* pp. 508-9 and note 5 above)—see EDD. s.vv. *Malikin*, *Mawkin* sb. 5, NED. s.v. *Malikin*. 5; further Ysgyfarnog 14 *kath ynnyf* “silly cat”; *kath hir-deith* 15 “cat of the long journey”.

24 *brod-lokere.*] “starer”; not in NED; cf. *brod* adv. “with eyes wide open, with a stare” (NED. s.v. *Broad*. a. C. 1b); cf. Chaucer (ed. W. W. Skeat), *Chanouns Yemannes Tale* 867: *For, though ye loke never so brode, and stare*. In the hare the eyes are large, prominent, placed on the sides of the head and have slightly elliptical pupils (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 229). There is a very widespread and ancient popular belief that hares sleep with open eyes, which probably originated in the undoubted fact that it is almost impossible to catch a hare asleep—even tame hares rarely become so trustful as to allow themselves to slumber in the presence of man (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 241-2).

brom-kat.] “cat of the broom”; only here (NED. s.v. *Broom*. sb. 6). The hare can be found in broom (*lest* Mr. Bramley and Mr. Youke); cf. the French proverb *Ce n'est pas viande preste que lièvre en genestay* (Rolland i, 84).

25 *purblind.*] “of defective vision”; cf. Shakespeare, *Venus and Adonis* 679: *And when thou hast on foot the purblind hare, Mark the poor wretch*. For the poor sight of the hare (cf. *walden-cie* 27, *west-lokere* 26—also Mn. Welsh *y gib-ddall* “the hare”, literally “the purblind one”) see *Master of Game* p. 145.

furse-cat.] “cat of the furze”; only here (NED. s.v. *Furze*. 4). A translation of Welsh *cath eithin* “hare”; the poem was probably

¹ For *wode*- cf. Ysgyfarnog 16 *coed-wal adwern* “laired in the undergrowth of the wood” and see quotation in note to *fern-sittere* 38.

² Mn.E. *wood-cat* “*Felis geoffroyi*, etc.” is quite recent; see NED. and Suppl. s.v. *Wood*. sb¹. 10b.

³ No etymology has been suggested for this word (W. A. Craigie, *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* s.v. *Baudrons*); Professor Dickins suggests that Shakespeare's puns in *Romeo and Juliet* (II. iv. 20; III. i. 78) imply that a form *Tibald* existed beside the customary cat-name *Tibert* (originally the name of the cat in the *Beast Epic*), and that *baudrons* (first recorded in Henryson's *Fables*) is a derivative of this; Nashe mentions *Tibault Prince of Caties* in *Hauc with you to Saffron-Walden* (ed. R. B. McKerrow, vol. III, p. 51, line 6) but this may be an echo of Shakespeare.

written not far from the Welsh border (see p. 348). The hare can be found in furze (*teste* Mr. Bramley and Mr. Wood).

26 *louting*.] with NED. (under separate heading, *Louting*. ppl. a².) to *Lout*. v². "to lurk, lie hid, skulk, sneak" (note 6§C.i(m) above), rather than = Mn.E. dial. *louting* adj. "clumsy, loutish" (EDD. s.v. *Louting*) < Mn.E. *lout* sb.

west-lokere.] NED. (s.v. *West-looker*, with this as the only quotation) regards the first element as the ordinary word *west*. But there seems no good reason—folk-lore or other—why the hare should be described as looking to the west.¹ There is another English word *west* meaning "sty or inflammatory swelling on the eyelid" (NED. s.v. *West*. sb²., EDD. s.v. *West*. sb.—from Northampton, Cambridge, Wiltshire, Dorset, and Somerset). This word *west* "sty" has not been etymologised. I suggest that, ultimately, it descends from a *-tō-* or *-tā-* formation, Ind.E. **wis-tō*, **wis-tā-*, to the root *weis-*; such formations frequently have adjectives beside them; cf. Icel. *sess* sb. (*-tō-*): Lat. *ob-sessus* adj. (*-tō-*, *-tā-*) to *sed-*; OHG. *forakta* sb. (*-tā-*): Goth. *fairhts* adj. (*-tō-*, *-tā-*)—see further Brugmann §423.2, Kluge §§120, 121, 223. I therefore suggest that in *west-lokere* we have, not the ordinary word *west*, but an adjective (adverb) of type Goth. *fairhts* to Mn.E. *west* "sty" and that the meaning is "the looker with bunged-up eyes, the blear-eyed one", a reference to the defective sight of the hare (cf. *purblinde* 25, *walden-eie* 27). The root *weis-* has "to flow, run" as its primary meaning (cf. Skt. *vēṣati* "flows" and river-names such as *Weser*, *Vistula*) but, secondarily, it also refers to rotting vegetation (as in Icel. *veisa* "swamp"), to poison (Gk. *ἵος*) and (from our point of view the most important), to animal excretions and fluids, e.g. to the blood (Welsh *gwyar*), to the faeces (Skt. *viṣṭhā*), or to the semen (Latin *uirus* "slime, mucus, animal semen, poison")². A sense-development to "sty" *via* the meaning "matter" presents no difficulty. The form of the word is, however, not so easy; from an Ind.E. **wistō-* or **wistā-* we should expect an OE. **wist* (see below) and the *e* in Mn.E. *west* can hardly be explained as due to a change of OE. *ĕ* to Mn.E. *ī*³. There are admittedly words (ultimately unrelated) of somewhat similar form and meaning in Norse, e.g. Mn.Icel. *vessi* "humour, matter" Mn.Norw. *vessast* "to run (of sores)" (Torp s.v. *vessa*), but Norse influence (whereby, it might be suggested, an OE. **wist* resulted in Mn.E. *west* instead of **wist*) is, in any case, hardly probable in a word of this distribution in England. Probably we may postulate an OE. **west* which would then afford another

¹ To consider it a reference to the hare's habit of feeding in the evening (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 270) is surely too far-fetched.

² Walde-Pokorny i, 243-4.

³ This change is attested in Somerset and Dorset (J. Wright, *The English Dialect Grammar* §68) but the form *west* in Cambridge and Northampton would then be without an explanation; in any case before *st* the change is usually in the reverse direction; cf. ME. *prist* < *prĕst* < *prĕst* < OE. *prĕost* (Jordan §34).

example of the (somewhat rare) "a-umlaut" of Pr.Gmc. *ī* to *ē* (Lauk §84; R. C. Boer, *Oergermaansch Handboek* §65); Ind.E. **wistos* or **wistā* > OE. **west* (> ME. Mn.E. *west*) just as Ind.E. **mistos*¹ (= Armenian *nist* "site, seat, residence") > OE. ME. Mn.E. *nest*.

27 *walden-eie*.] "wall-eyed" (cf. *purblind* 25, *west-lokere* 26); only here in later English (NED. s.v. *Waldeneie*) but cf. OE. *walden egi* quoted once by Bosworth-Toller, Suppl. s.v. *walden-ige*; cf. also ME. *wolden-eized* found once (NED. s.v. *Wolden-eized*).

sid-lokere.] "looker to the side"; only here (NED. s.v. *Side-look*). In the hare the eyes are placed on the side of the head (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 229) and are set so far apart that they can only observe backwards (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 272).

28 *rou-lekere*.] only here; NED. (s.v. *Roulekere*) tentatively suggests emendation to **lokere* but offers no explanation of *rou-*. This emendation is not necessary; the rhyme² can as well be upon *-ere* (as it certainly is in the next eleven lines) as upon the whole word *-lokere*; *-lekere* (= *lekere* 30) "frisker" and *rou-* "hedge-row"³ give excellent sense (cf. *heg-roukere* 34 and see quotation in note to *fern-sittere* 38).

29 *stob-hert*.] only here (NED. s.v. *Stobhert*). This might be interpreted as "stump-hearted"—with either *stob-* (NED. s.v. *Stob*. sb¹.) or *stōb-* (NED s.v. *Stub*. sb.). But to understand "stump-hearted" as "cowardly" (note 6§C.ii above) is not altogether satisfactory. More probably the second element is *hart* (see note to v. 51) and not *heart*. In this case there are two possibilities, between which it is very difficult to choose:—(i) "miniature stag"; cf. Mn.E. dial. *stubbed* "stunted in growth" (EDD. s.v. *Stubbed*. 1), *stub-mavis* "ring-ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*, a small kind of thrush which does not sing" (EDD. s.v. *Stub*. sb². 8.5); (ii) "stag of the stubble" (note 6§C.iii(b) above); cf. Mn.E. *stub*, *stubs* "stubble" (NED. s.v. *Stub*. sb. 4, EDD. s.v. *Stub*. sb². 10); Mn.E. dial. *stub-rabbit* "a rabbit that seeks shelter among stubs instead of going to ground" (EDD. s.v. *Stub*. sb². 8.8) to Mn.E. dial. *stub* "brushwood" (EDD. s.v. *Stub*. sb². 1). In either of these two cases we must take *stob-* as *stōb-*.

long-here.] not in NED.; "long-haired" (< OE. **long-hær*, **long-hære*) if we interpret the word as it stands, or "long-eared" (< OE. **long-ear*, **long-iere*)⁴ if we take the *h* as inorganic⁵. The hair of the hare might certainly be described as long⁶ but the length of the ears

¹ i.e. *ni-zd-ō-s* to root *sed-* (Walde-Pokorny ii, 485).

² The rhyme-scheme of the poem is not very regular:—five couplets (vv. 1–10), a set of nine rhyming lines (vv. 11–19), two sets of three rhyming lines (vv. 20–22, 23–25), two couplets (vv. 26–29), a set of ten rhyming lines (vv. 30–39), three couplets (vv. 40–45), a set of five rhyming lines (vv. 46–50), a set of three rhyming lines (vv. 51–53), a single line (v. 54), five couplets (vv. 55–64).

³ This sense is not recorded elsewhere in ME. but it is found both in OE. (Bosworth-Toller s.v. *ræw*) and Mn.E. dial. (EDD. s.v. *Row*. sb¹. 5).

⁴ For the formation of such bahuvrihi compounds see Kluge §§176, 177.

⁵ An inorganic *h* is common in ME. and particularly so in our MS. Digby 86 (Jordan §195); cf. *helbowe* 6.

⁶ For an account of the pelage of the Leporidae see Barrett-Hamilton ii, 162.

is one of the most striking and obvious characteristics of the hare ¹; the second alternative, "long-eared", should therefore be preferred. Cf. Ysgyfarnog 5 *klust-hir* "long-eared" (also in *Myvyrian Archaeology of Wales*, p. 21a); Mn. Welsh *yr hir-glust* "the hare"; further *ysgyfarnog* "hare" (to *ysgyfarn* "ear") and *y glustiog* "the hare" (to *klust* "ear"). But there is, of course, no reason to assume that, in the case of such an obvious epithet, there is any direct connection between the English and Welsh terms.

30 *straw-der*.] "animal of the stubble" (note 6§C.iii(b) above); only here (NED. s.v. *Straw*. sb¹. 14). The hare is fond of sitting in the stubble (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 272; see also quotation in note to *fern-sittere* 38).

lekere.] cf. *rou-lekere* 28. This word is not recorded by NED. (s.v. *Laker*²) until the nineteenth century; but the personal name *Laycar* is found in a Roll of 1296 (A. Mawer, *Jespersen-Miscellany* p. 14). The word is clearly the nomen agentis to *lake* v., here in the sense "to move quickly, spring" (NED. s.v. *Lake*. v¹. 1); cf. note 6§C.i(k) above. As NED. suggests, the word is in part from OE. *lācan*, in part from ON. *leika*. The forms with *e* here—and cf. *leake* sb., Death and Life (ed. I. Gollancz) 249—are difficult² but they presumably represent the Norse form with *ei* and are similar in phonology to Mn.E. *weak* (: ON. *veikr*), etc. (Luick §437).

31 *wilde der*.] "wild animal" (note 6§C.i(k) above); cf. *llwyd-wyllt* "grey and wild" Ysgyfarnog 16.20 and—for the whole line—*ysgrot gwyllt* 32 "wild leap".

leperer.] "jumper" (note 6§C.i(k) above); cf. Ysgyfarnog 6 *llam-dwyn* "making skips". The jumping powers of the hare are remarkable; a long jump of 8 ft. 9 ins. and a high jump of 7 ft. 6 ins. are recorded (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 274).

32 *shorte der*.] "short animal"; cf. *go-bi-grounde* 40 and Ysgyfarnog 14 *kelhin-ver* "short and brown". Both these epithets probably refer to the way hares press themselves almost flat with the ground, both in the form and when skulking quietly away on hearing an unusual sound (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 272).

lorkere.] NED. reads the MS. (with Wright) as *lerkere* but nevertheless gives this as the first quotation for the word *lurker* (s.v. *Lurker*¹). The reading with *o* (quite clear in the MS.) shows that this is so—hence *ǒ*. Cf. note 6§C.i(m) above.

33 *wint-swifft*.] "the swift as the wind" (cf. *tirart* 14); NED. (s.v. *Wind*. sb¹. 30d) gives this as the first quotation for the word. The

¹ Indeed the fact that the ear of the common hare (*Lepus europæus*) when bent forwards reaches far beyond the tip of the nose, whereas in other species it barely reaches it when so bent, is used by naturalists as the principal diagnostic character for the species (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 171—also ii; 229, 235, 259).

² But the difficulty is hardly so great as to make us reject this interpretation with its excellent sense. (Hardly "leaker" to *leak*. v. "to make water"—see NED. s.v. *Leak*. v. 2c.).

hare exhibits a rare combination of speed and staying power and will keep on running from an enemy until it dies (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 167).

skulkere.] “the skulker” (note 6§C.i(m) above). NED. (s.v. *Skulker*) gives this as the first quotation for the word. Cf. Gower, *Confessio Amantis* (ed. G. C. Macaulay) iv. 2720: *Awey he skulketh as an hare* and the modern use of the phrase to *skulk away* applied to hares (as in Barrett-Hamilton ii, 272 line 19).

34 *hare-serd.*] “copulating hare”; not in NED., although this compound would afford an earlier ME. quotation for the word *Sard.* v. “coire”. For the abnormal order of the elements in the compound see note 2 above. For the name cf. Mn.HG. dial. *Rammeler* “male hare” (F. Staub and L. Tobler, *Schweizerisches Idiotikon* vi, 896) Mn.Fr. dial. (Norman) *ridet* “male hare” (see P. Barbier, *Proceedings of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, Literary and Historical Section* ii, 201). The Leporidae are certainly prolific (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 167) but it is the rabbit, not the hare, which is peculiarly so (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 212—hence the phrase *as immoral as a rabbit*). The hare could certainly not be called very prolific, nor has it generally been so regarded (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 287—but cf. the German proverb *Der Hase geht im Frühling selbänder ins Feld und kommt im Herbst selbfünfzehn ins Vorholz wieder als Held*, quoted by Wander s.v. *Hase* 19). Hence names for the hare of the above type can hardly be due to a belief in the hare’s prolificness. But the buck hare in rut presents a very curious spectacle (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 284)—hence the phrase *mad as a March hare*—and probably such names ultimately refer to this.

heg-roukere.] “the squatter (note 6§C.i(m) above) in the hedge (cf. *rou-lekere* 28)”; only here (NED. s.v. *Ruck*. v.¹). To *ruck* “to squat, crouch, cower” (NED. *loc. cit.*). Hares are found, if only occasionally, in hedge-bottoms (*teste* Mr. Bramley) and are liable to squat in hedges when hard-pressed (*teste* Mr. Wood).

35 *deu-linge.*] only here (NED. s.v. *Deuding*); < *deu* “dew” + *dinge* “to beat”; cf. Mn.E. dial. *ding-dew* “a splay-footed person, one who walks with his toes much turned out” (EDD. s.v. *Ding*. v¹. II. 11.1), *dew-beater* “a person who has large feet or who walks awkwardly” (EDD. s.v. *Dew*. 1.1). But this sense-development is not present in our word (cf. *lizt-fot* 38, *ffitel-fot* 37) which probably merely preserves the original sense of “one who knocks the dew off” (cf. *deubert* 20, *deu-hoppere* 35). For the abnormal order of the elements in the compound see note 2 above.

deu-hoppere.] “the hopper (note 6§C.i(k) above) in the dew (cf. *deubert* 20, *deu-linge* 35)”; only here (NED. s.v. *Dew*.sb.6); cf. Ysgyfarnog 28 *Emlyner hi . . . o blith y gwelith. . . .* “let her be pursued . . . from amid the dew . . .” Hares feed in the early morning and late evening (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 270).

36 *sittere.*] “sitter”; cf. *sit*, of a hare in its form, etc. (NED. s.v. *Sit*. v. 11); cf. note 6§C.i(l) above.

gras-hopper.] “hopper in the grass” (note 6§C.i(l) above—and cf. *gras-bilere* 21); only here in this sense (NED. s.v. *Grasshopper*. 2).

37 *ffitel-fot*.] only here. NED. (s.v. *Fitelfoot*) compares an adj. *fittle* occurring once in the sixteenth century in *fittle or runninge witted* “futilis” (s.v. *Fittle*). Hardly to Icel. *fit* “the webbed foot of water-birds, etc.” (Torp s.v. *fit*. m.1) but rather to Icel. *fitla* “to fidget with the fingers, fiddle about with something” Shetland *fill*, *fitel* “to trip, walk with short easy steps; mess about with unimportant work” (as in *to fill about somet'in*), *fit* “to mess about” (as in *to geng fitin about*) Mn.Norw. *fitla* “to make a mess of a tiresome job” Mn.Sw. dial. *fitlä* “to be dilatory”. The sense of *ffitel-fot* is probably therefore “with fidgety feet” (cf. *li ztt-fot* 38—also Ysgyfarnog 44 *ynwyd-droed* “mad-footed”). A root *fit-* with such a meaning seems to be confined to Norse (Torp s.v. *fitla*) and hence *fitel-* in *ffitel-fot* and *fittle-witted* is probably to be regarded as a Norse loan-word.

fold-sittere.] “sitter on the ground” (note 6§C.i(l) above); only here (NED. s.v. *Fold*. sb¹. 3).

38 *li ztt-fot*.] “light-footed” (cf. *ffitel-fot* 37); this is the first quotation for the word in NED. (s.v. *Lightfoot*). For the characteristic feet of the Leporidae, to which their remarkable speed is due, see Barrett-Hamilton ii, 161 (also ii; 231, 269–70).

fern-sittere.] “sitter in the bracken” (note 6§C.i(l) above); only here (NED. s.v. *Fern*. sb. 2b). Cf. Master of Game p. 13:—“The hares abiden in sondry contre, al after þe sesoun of the yere, somtyme þei sitten in the ferne, somtyme in the hethe, and in the þe (*sic*) corn and in growyng wedis and somtyme in the wodes. In Aueryll and in May, Whan þe corn is so longe þat þei mowe hide hem self þerinne, gladly þei wil sitte þerynne, And whan men bygynne to repe þe corn þei wil sitte in þe vynes and in oþer stronge hethes, and in bushes and in hegges, and alway comynly in þe couert vndir þe wynde, and in Couert of þe Reyne,”

39 *cawel-hert*.] only here (NED. s.v. *Cawel*). This might mean “cabbage-hearted” but it is not clear how this epithet could mean “faint-hearted” and be a reference to the cowardice of the hare (note 6§C.ii above). More probably *-hert* is the word *hart* (see note to v. 51) and not *heart*; the meaning would therefore be “stag of the cabbages”. The hare often eats cabbage (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 279).

wort-cropper.] “cropper of the herbage” (cf. *gras-bilere* 21, Ysgyfarnog 11 *egyn-vuyt* “sprout-eating”); only here (NED. s.v. *Wort*. sb¹. 4); the word affords an earlier quotation than those given in NED. s.v. *Cropper*². The hare is as exclusively a vegetable feeder as any known animal; its food consists of various kinds of herbage (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 279).

40 *go-bi-grounde*.] NED. (s.v. *Go*. v. viii) does not give this quotation but records *go-by-(the)-ground* (a) adj. “cringing, low” (b) sb. “something that creeps along the ground; a dwarf” (cf. also EDD. s.v. *Go*. v. II.4 (11) *go by (the) ground* “a dwarf, a person of very low stature”) with first quotation from 1581. Cf. *shorte der* 32.

sitte-stille.] "sitter-still" (note 6§C.i(l) above) rather than *sittest ille* "thou-sittest-uncomfortably" (with Wright)¹. During the day the hare is a very quiet animal; it likes to spend the day quiescent in its form (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 270).

41 *pin-tail.*] "pin-tailed, small-tailed" (cf. Ysgyfarnog 11 *kattu* "bob-tailed" Mn. Welsh *y gweta* "the hare"); only here in application to the hare but frequent in later use (with sense "with pin-like tail" rather than, as here, "small-tailed") applied to birds (as in *pin-tail duck*); see NED. s.v. *Pintail*. The tail of the hare is short and recurved (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 231). To its smallness is due the French proverb *C'est sur la queue du lièvre*, said of something that cannot be got hold of (Rolland i, 84).

tourre-to-hulle.] MS. *tourre hohulle*; not in NED. Both the first and the second elements of the MS. reading might be emended (to **tourne-* and **-to-*). If *tourre-* is kept one might suggest that it means either "to make a tour of" (with *-ho- = o' = of*) or "to hasten" (with *-ho-* emended to **-to-*)—cf. Mn. E. dial. *tour* "to speed, hasten" (EDD. s.v. *Tour*, sb¹, 3). But the difficulty is that Mn. E. *tour* v. appears (NED. s.v. *Tour*, v.) to be a late use of *tour* sb. (< OFr. *tor*). It is, however, conceivable that such a formation may have been produced in English much earlier than it is actually recorded; in this case the sense "to make a tour of", i.e. "to run around", is the more probable; the dialect sense "to speed, hasten" may be very recent for no exactly parallel sense is recorded for the noun *tour*. But, on the whole, the emendation **tourne-to-hulle* "direct one's steps to the hills" presents the least difficulties². The epithet may contain a reminiscence of Psalm 104 (103), 18 *Montes excelsi cervis: petra refugium herinacis*. But, more probably, it refers to the fact that the hare's peculiar gait (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 169) makes it exceptionally fast uphill (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 273-4—cf. the German proverb *Ein Hase läuft leichter bergauf als bergab*, quoted by Wander s.v. *Hase* 44); in fact it is here quite as fast as hounds (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 276) and it is liable to make use of this ability when hunted (*teste* Mr. Yorke and Mr. Wood). The same idea is probably present in the rather obscure passage Ysgyfarnog 17-19.

42 *coue-arise.*] "get-up-quickly" (note 6§C.i(k) above); only here; see NED. s.v. *Coue*. adv. For the abnormal order of the elements in the compound see note 2 above.

43 *make-agrise.*] not in NED.; *agrise* "to shudder, be greatly afraid"; hence, "the one who makes people shudder", a reference to the fear of the hare which the whole poem implies (note 6§E above).

44 *wite-wombe.*] "white-bellied" (cf. Mn. Welsh *y dor-wen* "the hare", literally "the white-bellied"); not in NED. On the belly the fur of the hare is unicoloured white (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 260).

¹ The word is not entered in NED. but s.v. *Pintail*. I the quotation is given with "*sittest-ille* [sic: ? *sitte-stille*]".

² In the text I read *tourre-tohulle* as presenting the minimum of emendation.

45 *go-mit-lombe.*] “run-with-the-lambs”; not in NED. This may be a reference to the fact that hares can often be found in the same field as a flock of sheep (*teste* Mr. Bramley and Mr. Yorke) or to their method of concealing their scent when hunted by mingling with a flock of sheep. Cf. Turberville’s *Booke of Hunting* (1908 reprint) p. 165:—“And I haue seene Hares oftentimes runne into a flocke of sheepe in the ficlde when they were hunted, and woulde neuer leaue the flocke,”

46 *choumbe.*] not in NED. Obscure; possibly a parallel form to Mn.E. *chump* “simpleton, foolish person (cf. Mn.Welsh *yr hurt* “the hare”, literally “the stupid”); ill-natured person, rascal (cf. *srewart* 50, *turpin* 14), cheat (cf. *breke-fforewart* 48)” (EDD. s.v. *Chump* sb. 6, 7). Like the latter, *choumbe*, since it is not from French, betrays its autochthonous origin by its phonology (note 1 above).

chaulart.] MS. *chauart*; only here (NED. s.v. *Chavart*); an *-art* derivative (note 3 above). The MS. form can hardly be regarded as from Mn.E. *chaw* v. It might, however, be a derivative of *chaff*¹ (note 6§C.iii(b) above). But, more probably, it should be emended to **chaulart*; it would then refer to the peculiar mastication of the hare (cf. *momelart* 18); cf. *chavel* “to mump or mumble (food)” (NED. s.v. *Chavel*. v. 2) Mn.E. dial. *chavel* “to chew slowly and imperfectly; to mumble; to gnaw, nibble; to tear with the teeth”, *chavvelings* “the fragments of what has been gnawed or nibbled, husks, and refuse left by rats or mice” (EDD. s.v. *Chavel*. v.).

47 *couart.*] OFr. *Coart* is the name for the hare in the Beast Epic; the normal sense of the word would, however, give good sense here (cf. *babbart* 17.19; *osgordd ofn* “with a retinue of fear” Ysgyfar-nog 34). NED. s.v. *Coward*. sb. mentions the connection with the Beast Epic but does not give this quotation. The timidity of the hare is very well known (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 269).

48 *make-fare.*] “the one who makes people flee”; only here (NED. s.v. *Make-fare*). The epithet refers to the well known superstition that it is advisable to turn back from an adventure on meeting a hare (note 6§E above).

breke-fforewart.] “covenant-breaker”; only here (NED. s.v. *Break*-I. 1); cf. *wimount* 17, *sweikebert* 22. The reference here is probably to the great cunning of the hare in outwitting its pursuers (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 274).

49 *ffnattart.*] not in NED.; the word is an *-art* derivative (note 3 above) to a root *fnat-*; this must belong to the group of autochthonous roots (note 1 above) beginning with initial *fn* (Ind.E. *fn*) as in Gk. *πνέω* “to breathe” OE. *fnēosan* “to sneeze” (Walde-Pokorny ii, 85). For the form cf. Mn.HG. *pfnuttern* “to titter” (note the imitative intensification of *f* to *pf*). We have no data to determine the sense (note 1 above); initial *fn* disappears in English before the end of the ME. period (the last quotations with initial *fn* in NED., s.vv. *Fnast*.

¹ Inflected forms of this word with *v* persist into ME.; see NED. s.v. *Chaff*. sb¹.

v., *Fnese*, are from c. 1400); “snuffer, snuffler” are possible. In the Leporidae it is particularly the male who sniffs the ground (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 165).

pollart.] NED. separates this (s.v. *Pollart*) from the other words *pollard*. But the word probably refers to the smooth, cropped appearance of the hare's head and is thus the same as *Pollard*. sb². (found later) “an ox, sheep or goat of a hornless variety” (cf. also *Polled*. ppl. a. “having the hair cut short; shorn, shaven”).

50 *hei*.] “principal, chief” (NED. s.v. *High*. a. 7).

srewart.] “scoundrel” (cf. *lurpin* 14); < *shrew* + *-art* (NED. s.v. *Sheward*).

51 *pe hert wip pe leperene hornes*.] “the stag with the leathery horns” (cf. *stob-hert* 29, *cawel-hert* 39). The belief in the existence of horned hares is ancient and is probably founded on fact; at least, there is a disease among the American cottontails west of the Mississippi valley, not apparently affecting the general health of the victim, in which warty excrescences, often exactly like a pair of horns, grow on the head (Barrett-Hamilton ii, 243). Our names probably refer to this belief.

52 *pe der þa woneþ in pe cornes*.] “the animal that lives in the cornfields” (note 6§C.iii(b) above); cf. *Ysgyfarnog* 29 *ysgawn vryt agyt a gar* “with mind intent on the corn-stack and she loves corn”.

þa.] this may be an error for **þat*; on the other hand it may well be a spelling for the relative *þe* (NED. s.v. *The*. particle).

53 *pe der þat alle men scornes*.] At first sight this might be taken either as “the animal that scorns all men” or as “the animal that all men scorn”. But although the s-ending would be possible in the singular in a text written in Shropshire in the 13th century, it would hardly be so in the plural (E. Holmqvist, *On the History of the English Present Inflections particularly -th and -s*, chapters IV–V). Moreover the whole tenour of the poem implies fear of the hare rather than scorn. Hence we must prefer the first alternative; it might well refer to the solitary habits of the animal (cf. *frendlese* 23).

54 *pe der þat no-mon ne-dar nemnen*.] “the animal that no one dare name” (note 6§E above).

59 *wedrewardes so mon wile*.] cf. King Alisander (Laud MS.) 955 *whiderwardes so he wolde*.

61 *hane nou godne-dai*.] see NED. s.v. *Good day*. The same phrase occurs in Dame Siriz (ed. in A. Brandl and O. Zippel, *Mittelenglische Sprach- und Literaturproben*) 145, a poem also in our MS. Digby 86.

64 *in ciue*.] < OFr. *civé* “onion broth, mixed meat stewed with onions”; cf. MnFr. *civet de lièvre*. (This word was much confused with *sew* “pottage, broth” in English—see NED. s.v. *Sew*. sb¹.2). At p. 21 of the *Liber Cure Cocorum* (ed. R. Morris) there is a recipe for “Harus in cyue” immediately followed by one for “Harus in a sewe”:—

“Harus in cyue¹

Perboyle þe hare and larde hit wele,
 Sethyn loke þou rost hir everydele;
 Take onyons and loke þou hew hom smalle,
 Frye hom in grece, take peper and ale,
 And grynde togeder þo onyons also;
 Coloure hit with safrone and welle hit þo;
 Lay þe hare in charioure, as I þe kenne;
 Powre on þe sewe and serve hit þenne.”

“Harus in a sewe

Alle rawe þo hare schalle hacked be,
 In gobettis smalle, Syr, levys me;
 In hir owne blode seyn or sylud clene,
 Grynde brede and peper withalle bydene;
 Penne temper hit with þe same bre,
 Penne boyled and salted hit servyd schalle be.”

Among the recipes printed in *Early English Meals and Manners* (*Early English Text Society* 32) p. 60, there is a slightly different civet de lièvre (thus the hare is boiled in pieces instead of being roasted whole):—“Harys in cyueye. Take Harys, & Fle hem, & make hem clene, an hacke hem in gobettys, & sethe hem in Watere & Salt a lytylle; þan take Pepy, an Safroun, an Brede, y-grounde y-fere, & temper it wyth Ale. þan take Oynonys & Percely y-mynced smal togederys, & sethe hem be hem self, & afterward take & do þer-to a porcyon of vynegre, & dresse in.” For an early French recipe cf. *Le Viandier de Taillevent* (ed. J. Pichon and G. Vicaire) p. 10:—“Civé de lièvres. Rosticés tout cru en broche ou sus le gril, sans troplessier cuire; descouppés par pièces, et frisiés en sain de lart, et oingnons menus minciés; prennés pain hallé defait de vin et de bouillon de bucf, ou de purée de pois, et boullés aveques [vostre] grain; affinés gingembre, canelle et saffran, defaites de verjus et de vin aigre; et soit fort espicé”. For a modern recipe for a civet de lièvre see A. Escoffier, *A Guide to Modern Cookery* p. 576².

in bred.] cf. (i) *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (ed. J. R. R. Tolkien and E. V. Gordon) vv. 887–893:—

“þe wyʒe wesche at his wylle, and went to his mete.
 Seggeʒ hym serued semly innoʒe
 Wyth sere sewes and sete, sesounde of þe best,
 Double-felde, as hit falleʒ, and fele kyn fischeʒ,
 Summe baken IN BRED, summe brad on þe gledeʒ,
 Summe soþen, summe in sewe sauered with spyces,
 And ay sawes so sleʒe þat þe segge lyked.”

¹ Printed as *cyne*.

² The nearest approach to a civet de lièvre in English cookery is afforded by a jugged hare; cf. *Mrs. Beeton's Household Management* (1923 ed.) p. 630: Hare, Civet of (Civet de lièvre) and p. 632: Hare, Jugged (Civet de lièvre à l'anglaise).

(ii) Morte Arthure (ed. E. Björkman) vv. 180-199:—
 "Flesch fluriste of fermyson with frumentee noble,
 Therto wylde to wale and wynlyche bryddes,
 Pacokes and plouers in platers of golde,
 Pygges of porke-despyne, þat pasturedede neuer;
 Sythen herons in hedoyne, hyled full faire;
 Grett swannes full swythe in silueryn chargeourtes,
 Tartes of Turky: taste whan þem lykys!
 Gumbaldes graythely, full gracious to taste,
 Seyne bowes of wylde bores with þe braune lechyde,
 Bernakes and botures in baterde dysches;
 þarþy braunchers¹ IN BREDE, bettyr was neuer,
 With brestez of barowes, þat bryghte ware to schewe.
 Seyn come þer sewes sere, with solacc þerafter,
 Ownde of azure all ouer & ardent þem semyde,
 Of ilke a leche þe lowe launschide full hyc,
 þat all ledes myghte lyke, þat lukyde þem apon[er];
 þan cranes & curlucs, craftyly roasted,
 Connygez in cretoyne, colourede full faire,
 Fesauntez enflureschit in flammande siluer,
 With dariells endordide, and dayntecz ynewe;"

(iii) The Squire of Low Degree (ed. in W. H. French and C. B. Hale, *Middle English Metrical Romances*) vv. 316-26:—

"And serued the Kynge ryght royally,
 With deynty meates that were dere,
 With partryche, pecoke, and plouere,
 With byrdes IN BREAD ybake,
 The tele, the ducke, and the drake,
 The cocke, the curlewe, and the crane,
 With fesauntes fayre—theyr were no wane—
 Both storkes and snytes ther were also,
 And venyson freshe of bucke and do,
 And other deyntes many one,
 For to set afore the Kynge anone."

(iv) Awntyrs off Arthure (in F. J. Amours, *Scottish Alliterative Poems*; J. Robson, *Three Early English Metrical Romances*) v. 342: *Birdis in brede* (Thornton MS.); *Briddes bacun in bred* (Ireland MS.).

E. Björkman (*op. cit.*, Glossary s.v. *brede* "Fleischspeise, Braten") takes *in brede* as "roasted" and it might be suggested that the phrase has the same meaning in our poem. But against this it may be urged:—
 (a) that the syntax would be difficult—*brede* means "roast meat" (NED. s.v. *Brede*, sb¹.); (b) that the phrase *baken in bred*, *in bred ybake* in (i), (iii), and (iv) would not then give very good sense; (c) that in our poem the word rhymes with an open *e* (: *dēd* < OE. *dēad*)².

¹ Cf. NED. s.v. *Brancher*² "a young hawk (or other bird) when it first leaves the nest and hops about the branches".

² But not too much weight should be attached to rhyme-evidence of this kind; see R. M. Wilson, pp. 342-6 of this number.

It seems, therefore, that *bred* is not the word meaning "roast meat" but the ordinary word *bread*. A sense "bread"¹ is hardly satisfactory but "pie-crust, pastry", a sense recorded by NED. s.v. *Bread*. sb¹. 6a with our quotations (iii) and (iv)²—it is given as obsolete but cf. Mn.E.

¹ So Tolkien and Gordon, *op. cit.*, Glossary s.v. *bred*.

² NED. also gives *bred* Cursor Mundi (Cotton MS.) 4487 under this rubric; in the edition of R. Morris the passage in question reads:—

Ʒe spenser said, "me-thoght i bare
A lepe, als i was oft won ar,
Wit BRED þat i bar on mi heued;"

The reference is to the dream of Pharaoh's chief baker; the Vulgate (ed. H. Quentin, 1926) has (Genesis XL, 16–17):—"pistorum magister . . . ait: et ego vidi somnium quod haberem tria canistra farinae super caput meum: et in uno canistro quod erat excelcius portare me omnes cibos qui fiunt arte pistoria" In the *Historia Scholastica* of Petrus Comestor, which, according to Haenisch (in Morris, *op. cit.* p. 3* ff.) was largely drawn upon by the compiler of the *Cursor Mundi*, the commentary on the point reads (Migne, *Patrologia Latina* cxcviii, 1129):—"Josephus vero ait: duo canistra plena panibus, tertium vero obsonio variisque cibis quales solent regibus ministrari [cf. *Josephus, Jewish Antiquities* (Loeb ed.) ii, 71:—*δύο μὲν ἄρτων πλέα, τὸ δὲ τρίτον ὄβιον τε καὶ ποικίλων βρωμάτων ὅα βασιλεῦσι σκενάζεται*]. Græcus habet, tria canistra codrutorum [: *Septuagint χορδοῦτων, Hebrew ḥōrī "loaves baked from emmer-flour"—see next article in this number*], id est panum secundorum, et potuit esse quod etiam in superiori essent panes secundi, super quos essent panes primi, de quibus edebat Pharaoh". (See *International Critical Commentary*, *loc. cit.* on p. 385.) Cf. Augustine, *Quæstiones in Heptateuchum* (Migne, *Patrologia Latina* xxxiv, 583):—"Quod aliqui codices latini habent, *tria canistra alicæ*, cum græci habeant *χορδοῦτων*, quod interpretantur qui usum ejusdem linguæ habent, panes esse cibarios. Sed illud movet, quomodo panem cibarium potuerit Pharaoh habere in escis. Dicit enim in superiore canistro fuisse omnia ex quibus edebat Pharaoh, opus pistorum. Sed intelligendum est etiam ipsum canistrum habuisse panes cibarios, quia dictum est, tria canistra *χορδοῦτων*, et desuper fuisse illa ex omni genere operis pistoris in eodem canistro superiore". In Genesis and Exodus, of which Petrus Comestor's work was also a source (A. Fritzsche, *Anglia* v, 43 ff.), the corresponding passage reads (in the edition of R. Morris, v. 2077 ff.):—

Quað ðis bred-wrigte, "liðeð nu me,
me drempte ic bar bread-lepes ðre,
And ðor-in bread and oðer meten,
Quilke ben wune ðe kinges to eten;"

Of other ME. versions of the passage we may mention:—

(i) The Wycliffe-Purvey translations (ed. J. Forshall and F. Madden): "And I sawȝ a sweuen, that I hadde three basketis [*v.r.* panyeris] of melow [*v.r.* mele] vpon myn heed,"

(ii) Iacob and Iosep (ed. A. S. Napier) v. 258 ff.:

"Ʒe baxtere mette an oƷer, nas hit nouȝt so god,
In Ʒe bachuse him þuȝte þat he stod,
Of bred he fulde a basket 7 to Ʒe halle he wolde hit berec,"

(iii) Verse version of Old Testament Passages in the Bodleian Ms. Laud Misc. 622 (unpublished—see Wells p. 398), f.65.r. col. i, line 37 ff.:

"Ʒe Baker yherd þis. his sweuen he tolde þo.
þat þere weren þre lumpes [*ultimately for* *lepes] of douȝ. vpon his
heued ydo."

There is thus hardly justification for assuming any sense other than the normal one for *bred* at *Cursor Mundi* 4487; still less is there any evidence that the compiler, who in any case shows his inaccuracy here by missing the whole point of the story [he mentions *one* basket (v. 4486) but *three* days (v. 4493)—cf. Genesis XL, 18 "Tria canistra tres adhuc dies sunt"], envisaged the contents of the chief baker's basket precisely as *pâtisserie*, as NED. suggests.

dial. *bread o' the pie* "pie-crust" (EDD. s.v. *Bread*. sb¹. 5.5)—will suit all five contexts perfectly. The dishes indicated were probably very similar to what we should now call *pâtés* (raised pies)¹. In the *Viandier de Taillevent* a large number of recipes for "Pastés" are given (*op. cit.* p. 71 ff.) e.g.:—"Pastés de chapons, de poules, de pyjons, de passereaux, de canes sauvages, de perdris, de connis, de lièvre [and cf. *Traité de Cuisine écrit vers 1300, op. cit.* p. 120: "Touz connins e touz lièvres sont bons en pasté"], de truyte, de congre, de turbot, de saulmon, etc.". As a specimen we may quote (p. 74): "Lemproye en Pasté. N'y soit mis que du sel, et soit faicte la saulee appart, et bien noire, et prenés de l'espicier pouldre de lemproye, et soit une pièce de pain brulé bien noir et destrampé de vert jus et vin aigre, et passé par l'astamine et soit boutée la poudre dedens, et après boullie, et mettés la sauce en ung bien petit pot bien net, et quant le pasté sera cuit, mettés la saulee dedens, et après tenu ung peu dedens le four, pour faire boullir la saulee avec la lemproye". For early English recipes cf. (i) T. Austin, *Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery-Books* p. 47:—"vj. Tartes of Fyssche.—Take Fygys, & Roysoynys, & pike an sethe in Wyne; þan take Costardys, Perys, & pare hem clene, & pike out þe core, & putte hem in a morter with þe frute; þen tak Codlyng or haddok, oþer Elys, & seþe hem & pike owt þe bonys, & grynd alle y-fere, & do þer-to a lytel wyne, & melle to-gederys: an do þer-to Canelle, Clowys, Macez, Quybibez, poudre Gyngere, & of Galyngale, & pepir, & Roysonys of coraunce, and coloure it with Safroun. When þou makyst þin cofyns, þan take gode fat Ele, & culpe hym, & take owt þe stonys of Datys, & farce hem; & blaunche Almaundys, & caste þer-to; but fyrste frye hem in Oyle, & couche al þis a-mong, & bete þin cofyns with þe ledys, & bake, & serue forth". (ii) A.W., *A Book of Cookrye* (1591) f. 18.r.:—"To make a Chicken Pye. Scalde the Chickins, draw them, and pull out the best bones, then season them with cloues and mace, Pepper and Salte, and if you haue them grapes, or gooseberies: when you haue so doon, make paste of fine flower, and put in your Chickins, and set them in the Ouen, then boyle foure Egs hard, then take the yolks and strain them with vergious, and put Sugar thereto and put it into your chicken pye when it is half baked, and when it is ready to be serued in, annoint it ouer with butter, Sugar & rosewater, then put it into the ouen til you serue them in." (iii) H. Wolley, *The Queen-Like Closet* (1670) p. 230:—"To make a Hare-Pie. Take the flesh of a very large Hare, and beat it in a Mortar with as much Marrow or Beef Sewet as the Hare contains, then put in Pepper, Salt, Nutmeg, Cloves and Mace, as much as you judge to be fit and beat it again till you find they be well mixed, then having your Paste ready in your Baking-Pan, lay in some Butter, and then your Meat, and then Butter again; so close it, and bake it, and when it is cold, serve it in with Mustard and Sugar; and garnish your Dish with Bay leaves; this will keep much longer than any other Pie."²

¹ See Escoffier, *op. cit.*: "Pâté de Lièvre" p. 577, "Pâté Chaud de Caneton" p. 557.

² On the cookery of the hare see, in general, K. Herbert's article in *The Hare (H'ur and Feather Series*, ed. A. E. T. Watson) pp. 231-63

Appendix

Dafydd ab Gwilym's "Cywydd yr Ysgyfarnog"*

Peniarth 49

BDG.

kywydd yr ysgyvarnoc

I'r ysgyfarnog a ddychrynasai
Morfudd a acthai i'r llwyn i
gadw oed a'r bardd.

llyma bwynt llemae y bydd
llyfr kanon llavur kynydd
helynt glastroch a hwyl(i)[y]ai
4 hydr drafferth or berth y bai
glvstir lwyd ger glasterw lwyn
gernvrcith gyflymdeith lamdwyn
gov[u]nceit hueit yw hi
8 gwlm kytkerdd golam koetki

Llyma ben lle mae, o bydd
Llyfr canon llafur cynnydd,
Ysgyfarn glas-gerth a hwyliai,
Mawr drafferth, o'r berth a bai:
Glusthir lwyd, gar glas derw lwyn,
Gefn-fraith, gyflym-daith, lamdwyn
Gofunaid huaid yw hi,
Gwlm cydgerdd, gelyn coedgi:

gwrwreic a wnai ger glai glann
gehyrwayw i gi hwyrwann
genver gwta cginvwyt
12 gwnn dynghedvenn lawdrwenn lwyd
herwraic o lain adain yt
her gethinverr gath ynyvt
kath hirdaith gethinraith gern
16 kod lwydwyllt coedwal adwern
krair hy bron a ffy ar ffysc
kraig byhwmanwraig manwrysc
mynyddic wal bennal byllt
20 mynnenn aelodwenn lwydwyllt
Emlyner hi ymlynynt
ymlaen gwyr ymloyn gwynt
escud oi fflas ar lasrew
24 yscwd o flaen escid flew
o hynt y hynt y hwntian
o goet i vacs gloywlas glan
o blas kynnil bwygilydd

Gwrwraig a wnai ar glai glân
Gyhyrwayw i gi hwyr-wan.
Gefnfain, gwta gegin-fwyd,
Gwn dynghedfen lawdrwen lwyd.
Henwraig ar lain adain yd,
Anferth hir glustiau ynfyd;
Cath hirdaith, gethin-fraith gern,
Côd lwydwyllt, coedwal adwern.
Cyw hy i fron a ffy ar ffysg,
Craig bwhwman-wraig manwrysg:
Mynyddig wâl, benial byllt,
Mýnen aelodwen ledwyllt.
Esgud ei *phâs* ar lasrew,
Ysgwd o'i blaen, esgid blew:
Erlyner hi ar lân hynt,
Ym mlaen gwyr, ymloyn gwynt;
Yn galed, o fan bwygilydd,
O blith y gwliith i bleth gwlydd,
O hynt i hynt i hwntian,

15-18 from T. Parry, op. cit. p. 165 (see L. C. Stern, Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie vii, 193 note 2). 26 gloywlas: MS. -wlaes.

* There is, unfortunately, no critical edition of this poem. It is very obscure and extant in a large number of discrepant versions. Lack of space makes it necessary to treat it here *in brevissime*. On the right-hand side of the page I give the modernised text printed in O. Jones and W. Owen, *Barddoniaeth Dafydd ab Gwilym* p. 93 ff. (the only edition of the poem) and on the left a diplomatic text for vv. 1-36 from MS. Peniarth 49 (printed in T. Parry's edition of the MS., p. 46 ff.). vv. 37-60 do not appear in this version nor in any of the other MSS. of the poem listed by E. J. L. Jones and H. Lewis, *Mynegai i farddoniaeth y llwys-grifau* p. 47, nor in Cefn Coch MS. A (ed. of A. Fisher, p. 182) nor in the Llyfr Hir Llanharan (Cardiff Public Library) f. 296 v. (these two MSS. are not included in Jones and Lewis' list). But in MS. Wynnstey 2 (National Library of Wales) f. 89

CYWYDD ON THE HARE

[To the hare which frightened Morfudd who had gone to the grove to keep an appointment with the poet]

- The course of a grey, unlucky female,
 long-eared and grey, beside a grove of green oak,
 with speckled cheeks, rapid-faring, slipping,
 who rushed, with a bold bustling, from the bush where she
 affords a fixed point [happened to be,
 in the book of the canon of a huntsman's work, in that, where
 She is the desire of hounds [she is, there will she be again.
 8 (those who make music in harmony) and that which causes
 the dog of the wood to skip,
 a hermaphrodite who would cause, on the clay of a bank,
 muscular pain to a slow, feeble hound,
 she, the short-backed, bob-tailed, sprout-eating one.
 12 I know the destiny of the white-hosed grey one,
 female plunderer from the plot of the corn-blade.
 Shoo! short, brown, silly cat,
 wide-faring cat with brown, speckled cheeks,
 16 wild, grey bundle of the wood-lair in the undergrowth,
 bold pet of the hill-crest who flees in haste;
 the fine brushwood is the dodging lady's stronghold,
 her mountain lair a protection from darts.
 20 Little she-kid, white-limbed, wild and grey--
 let her be pursued (may they pursue her)
 in front of men, wind-driven flash,
 swift on the hoar-frost from her place of residence,
 24 thrusting forward a hairy shoe,
 staggering from path to path,
 out of the wood into the field, bright green and fair,
 from one cunning lie to another,

v. all the lines in question except vv. 51-2 are found and for this part of the poem I print the text of this MS. in the left-hand column. vv. 37-60 are probably a later addition and not the work of Dafydd. The object of the translation is primarily to render the MS. versions here printed, as literally as is consonant with good English. Naturally, in the many cases in which alternative renderings are possible, one has had to be selected. The poem seems to fall into two parts at v. 60 and it is indeed possible that two poems have been joined into one. The first part constitutes a *cywydd* of abuse of the hare, the second an *eddig* poem describing the love-longing of the poet. It is only the first which here concerns us. Dafydd (flourished in the 14th century) is the most distinguished of Welsh poets; an exhibition of his works is at present (July 1935) on view in the British Museum.

Peniarth 49

- 28 o blith y gwllith i bleth gwlydd
 ysgawn vryt ag yt a gar
 os gat duw esgut dayar
 ysgwyr vwriad anwadal
 32 ysgwt gwyllt esgut oi gwal
 Esgeir kath nyth dwynpath nod
 osgordd ofn os gwyr ddyvod
 yr tythyn lle tywynn tes
 36 y kai vwyt y kyvodes

Wynnstey 2

- hon a wnaeth n hraeth y riw
 fowrgam am i ofergiw
 llinio i gwal yn llwyn y gog
 40 draw y geinach drognnog
 lle docthe dan gange gwydd
 aur i mynud ir manwydd
 oni bau or kau ir koed
 44 ncidol fydrog ynfyddroed
 ar koesse hydd kasa r rhawg
 ddrwg lun y frech ddraig leuawg
 a ffan welodd gweyddodd gwen
 48 y flewog giw aflawen
 dychrynnodd a liniodd le
 drwy sadrwydd hi droes adre
 52
 o dduw byw ie ddyvod bun
 glwyslais i goed y glaslyn
 ag na chefais n ais nod
 56 wych Forfydd i chyfarfod
 a wnaeth draw yr anoeth dro
 y ki mawr ai kymero
 oddiar i gwal ddoier gelen
 60 heb rybydd er bydd oi ben

BDG.

- O goed i faes gloywlas glân.
 O aml fwriad anwadal,
 Ysgwd gwyllt, esgud o'i gwâl:
 Ysgafn fryd, ac yd a gâr,
 Os gad Duw esgud daear.
 Esgair cath, nyth dwmpath nod
 Is gardd ddofn, ys gwŷr ddyfod
 I'r tyddyn lle'i tywynn tes,
 O cai fwyd y cyfodes.

- Hon a wnaeth yn nhraeth, y rhyw
 Fawrgam a'm fi, oferygw !--
 Llunio ei gwâl yn llwyn y gog
 Draw, y geinach drognnog;
 Lle daethau dan gangau gwŷdd,
 Aur ei munud i'r manwydd,
 Oni bae o'r cae, a'r coed
 Neidio o'r fudrog ynfyd-droed,
 A'r coesau hŷdd, casa' rhawg:
 Drwg lun y frech ddraig leuawg;
 A phan welodd, gwaeddodd gwen.--
 Y flewog gyw aflawen !
 Dychrynnodd a luniodd le,
 Drwy sadrwydd, hi droes adre'.
 Ofnodd fod, fal y dywod hi,
 Gwrthwyneb a gwarth ini.
 Oedd gwae fi ddyfod bun
 Glwyslais, o goed y glaslyn.
 Ac na chefais, yn ais nod
 Wych Forfudd, ei chyfarfod !
 A wnaeth draw yr annoeth dro
 Y ci mawr ai cymmero,
 Oddiar ei gwâl, ddoier gelen,
 Heb rybudd er budd o'i ben !

36 y¹: MS. o. 37 hraeth: MS. hiraeth.
 40 geinach: MS. geinar. 45 kasa: MS. kysa.
 46 lun: lege lu'n. frech: MS. ferch.
 50 sadrwydd: MS. sodrwydd.
 53 ddyvod: MS. ddowod.

- 28 from amid the dew into the intertwining stems of wheat
 (with mind intent on the corn-stack and she *loves corn*
 if God lets her --swift one of the ground) !
 Crooked-- her intention vacillating --
 32 is the wild leap of the swift one from her lair.
 If she, cat-legged, (her nest is a noticeable lump),
 escorted by fear, knows how to come
 to the homestead where the sunshine warmly glows,
 36 she has then sprung whither she may obtain food.

- She, in the region of the slope did
 me a great wrong, useless imp,
 by making her lair in the grove of the cuckoo,
 40 over there, the verminous hare,
 where, beneath the branches of the trees,
 the golden-mannered one would have come into the under
 had it not been that, from the field into the wood, [growth
 44 the filthy, mad-footed one had leapt
 on her stag-legs, she who has long been greatly hated
 (an evil host was in the speckled, lousy dragon).
 And the fair one screamed when she saw
 48 the melancholy, hairy imp;
 she who had fashioned a retreat was frightened;
 she turned purposefully homewards;
 [she feared, as she said, that there would be
 52 vexation and shame for us].
 Alas, O living God, that the maid came
 sweet-voiced into the wood of the green valley,
 and that I did not obtain a meeting
 56 with fair Morfudd, heart's desire !
 She who played that silly trick there,
 may the big dog take her
 from her lair, a corpse indeed,
 60 without a warning from his mouth for her benefit !

. . .