

Poultry and Prudence

By Aristotle

5 But prudence is concerned with the human things and with those about which it is possible to deliberate. For we assert this to be the work of the prudent person especially—deliberating well—and nobody deliberates about things that cannot be otherwise, or about so many things as are without some end, an end, moreover, that is a good attainable through action. He who is a good deliberator simply is skilled in aiming, in accord with calculation, at what is best for a human being in things attainable through action. And prudence is not concerned with the uni-
10 versals alone but must also be acquainted with the particulars: it is bound up with action, and action concerns the particulars. Hence even some who are without knowledge—those who have experience, among others—are more skilled in acting than are others who do have knowledge. For if someone should know that light meats are easily digestible and healthful, but is ignorant of what sorts are light, he will not produce health; rather, he who does know that poultry is light and healthful will to a greater degree produce health.