

THE BROOD-CELLS.

In the centre of the frame we find the brood in all stages—egg, larva, and cocoon. The last is sealed over, just as is the honey, with this difference, however, that the cappings are slightly raised in the case of worker-brood, decidedly so with drone-cells. The larvæ or maggots are easily seen, coiled up in the bottom of the cell, especially after they are three days old, but the eggs are harder to distinguish on account of their small size; in fact, they look like very short bits of white thread attached to the far end—that is, the bottom of the cell. It is just as well for the beginner to learn to detect the presence of eggs in the comb, for an evenly arranged patch is pretty good proof that the queen was busy at least three days ago.



Fig. 15. Shaking bees off frame.



Fig. 16. Knocking bees off frames.

HOW TO REVERSE A COMB.

A frame has two sides, so you had better look at the other one too. Your most natural impulse will be to cant the frame over, but don't do that, for as you tilt it up to the level the weight of the comb is apt to break it away. Try it thus: Lower one hand, say the right, till the top bar is perpendicular (Fig. 17); turn the frame half-way round, using the top bar as a pivot (Fig. 18); then raise the hand that was lowered (Fig. 19). Your frame is now upside down with the second side towards you. Here is another method that can be carried out without a pause: Let the lugs of the frame rest on the middle fingers of each hand, these being bent towards the chest. Turn the comb end for end by swinging the left hand to the right of the right hand, then swing the comb up to the position shown in Fig. 19. To get to the original position, reverse the movements.

REPLACING FRAMES.

When through with this frame, replace it in the hive, pushing it tight against the vacant side. There is no excuse for placing it on the ground. If you have changed it so that you have forgotten which is the front end, just look at the brood, for the bees prefer to have their young towards the entrance of the hive, but the honey at the rear. When you have examined as many frames as you want, push them over to their original position by putting the hive-tool between the side of the