by the end of the top bar with the left hand, then with the right hand clenched hit the left a smart blow from above (Fig. 13). The comb being free from bees, turn your back to the sun so that its rays shine into the cells. Along the upper part of the frame and at the ends the cells will probably be all sealed, the cappings, as the coverings of the cells are called, being flat, often sunk and wrinkled. Such sealing indicates the presence of honey. On the edge of this region there will likely be a narrow belt of unsealed cells showing the honey, indicating that the bees are using up their stores to feed the young. When we reach the bottom board in our investigations we shall

Fig. 12. Shaking Bees off Frame.

Fig. 13. Knocking Bees off Frame.

find lying there a brownish-looking deposit, like coarse dust, but which is really the fragments of comb-capping torn from the cells.

Pollen Stores.

Next to the open cells with honey comes a narrow band of cells, filled with a brilliant-coloured solid substance. This is pollen, the bee-bread of our forefathers, which is the male principle of plants, and forms part of the food of the young of the bee while in the larva or maggot stage.

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, 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.