

HOMOEOPATHIC REPERTORY

INTRODUCTION

Homoeopathy is a System of Medicine based on the principle “*Similia Similibus Curentur*”, which means ‘let likes be treated by likes’. In this mode of treatment the ability of the medicines to manifest symptoms upon apparently healthy human beings are made use of. These manifestations are ascertained by the process of drug proving (on healthy individuals) and are recorded in the *Materia Medica*. The medicinal symptoms are matched with the symptoms of the sick to find out the indicated remedy, the *simillimum*. Thus, with a knowledge of effects of a drug on a healthy human body, one can treat all the symptoms of the case by applying the Law of Similars and the use of a minimal dose of the drug.

Regarding the principles that are essential for the treatment of a case, the logic behind the selection of a remedy, methods of administration of a remedy, selection of potency and repetition of doses, every homoeopath keeps in mind the advices of Samuel Hahnemann and the experiences of pioneers in Homoeopathy, which are titled under the subject, *Organon of Medicine and Philosophy*.

The role of a Repertory acting as a connecting link between the above said processes is not something which can be substituted. A repertory is an index of symptoms, arranged systematically. The system of arrangement may be found in turn upon definite guiding principles; or it may be alphabetical or schematic.

The intelligent use of a repertory implies that we understand the scope of a repertory as well as the purpose of a repertory.

A repertory has definite purposes:

- To serve as a reference and guide in looking up for a particular symptom that may indicate the *simillimum*.
- To make necessary distinction between two or more similar remedies in any given case.
- For careful study of all the symptoms that may appear in a chronic case.
- To refer other remedies for a known indication. (As per the *Therapeutic Pocket Book*)

According to J. T. Kent, commented under the title ‘Use of the Repertory’, Homoeopathy includes both science and art. Likewise, the study of Repertory must consist of science and art where he considers the mechanical method of collection of all symptoms with their remedies and gradings as the *scientific* part and the judgement of value of symptoms according to the patient as the *artistic* part.

As opined by G. I. Bidwell, a repertory is not intended to take the place of the *Materia Medica* and it must never replace our constant study and use of the pathogenesis of our

remedies, it should be used as an index to lighten the task of memory in storing the vast symptomatology of our remedies.

After selection of a remedy with the assistance of a repertory, we should confirm this simillimum by referring its pathogenesis in one of our complete Materia Medica.

Different authors have given different expressions in order to explain repertory. Though the expressions vary, at the end, it means the same.

Quotations of different authors

Dr.P.Schmidt said “ No conscientious homoeopathic doctor can practice homeopathy in a serious & scientific way without a repertory”.

Dr.Kent “ True some men do some good work without the repertory, but they also do poor work, more than they would do with it”.The proper use of repertory will leads to correct offhand prescribing in simple cases in from 10-20 years.

The mechanical use of the repertory never leads to artistic prescribing nor to remarkable results – **Dr.J.T.Kent**

A tool is as good as the workman who handle it .A bad workman naturally blames his tool when things start going wrong – **Dr.M.L.Dhavale**

The need of the repertory comes from the character of Homeopathy itself- **Dr.Barthel & Klunker**

Our materia medica is so cumbersome without a repertory that the best prescriber must meet with only indifferent results _ **Dr.J.T.Kent**

It is impossible to practice Homeopathy without the aid of repertories and the best repertory is the fullest _ **Dr.J.H.Clark**

Every attempt to convert either the materia medica or repertory in to language of traditional medicine must result in total failure.- **Dr.J.T.Kent**

J.H.Allen :The isolated study of drugs in homeopathic materia medica is a meaningless exercise. It has to be studied in relation to areas of similarity and dissimilarity
Repertory is essentially an index _ **C.M.Boger**

As no one person can carry all the symptoms of all the remedies in his mind, a concordance of index is needed. We term a symptom index a repertory. - **Dr. Elizabeth Wright.**

A perfect repertory should contain a reference to *every* symptom of the Material Medica under *every* rubric where it can be possibly looked for. - **Berridge**

There is a need and it may be truthfully said, an urgent demand for a repertory which will enable the physician to find quickly, certainly and desired symptoms in the materia medica, together with the indicated remedy.- **William D. Gentry**

The more the allopath grows old, the more he is pessimistic .The more the homeopath grows,the more he is enthusiastic and optimistic : **P.Schmidt**

The use of the repertory is one of the higher branches of our art and before it can be mastered, the law governing the homoeopathic treatment and cure of diseases, as given to us in the *Organon* and *Chronic Diseases* must be learned: **G.I.Bidwell**

MEANING OF THE WORD 'REPERTORY'

With reference to the 'Webster's New World College Dictionary', the word 'Repertory' means a repository for useful things; **storehouse**; the things stored; stock; collection. As per 'Illustrated Oxford Dictionary', 'Repertory' is a store or collection, especially of information, instances, etc.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD

The word 'Repertory' has its origin from Late Latin 'Repertorium' which meant '**an inventory**'. Repertorium again is derived from the Latin word 'Repertus', which is the past participle of 'Repereire'. The French word 'Repertoire' is a synonym of 'Repertory'.

DEFINITION

According to Dr. Boenninghausen, Father of Repertory: "A repertory is **an index of symptoms, arranged systematically.**"

Repertory is a systematically and logically arranged index to the homoeopathic materia medica, which is full of information collected from toxicology, drug proving and clinical experience.

It is a connecting link between the materia medica and disease.

CONCEPT OF REPERTORY

The initial idea of the homoeopathic rule of practice occurred to Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the Father of Homoeopathy, while translating Cullen's *Materia Medica* in 1790. The introduction and development of the Homoeopathic *Materia Medica* by Hahnemann was a unique phenomenon in the history of medicine. All these facts were mostly gained from experiments on healthy human beings. As the volume of Homoeopathic *Materia Medica* expanded and remedies multiplied, it became a problem to apply this knowledge according to the directions laid down by Hahnemann. During his own time, Hahnemann, too, became conscious about the need for suitable indices to the growing '*Materia Medica*'.

Concept of repertories evolved around 1817 when Hahnemann started cataloguing to serve as a ready index to the vast structure of homoeopathic symptomatology. Necessity to discover a better method for selecting the simillimum led to the creation of repertories.

During Hahnemann's time there were only about 100 medicines, Now about 4000. Every well proved drug has got thousands of symptoms and for a man of average intelligence, it is almost impossible to remember all the symptoms of all the drugs to establish a total comparison with the disease picture.

The value of any repertory depends upon several elements:

1. The art of the physician in taking the case.
2. A knowledge of the repertory one attempts to use:
 - Its philosophical background.
 - Its construction.
 - Its limitation.
 - Its adaptability.
3. Intelligent use of the resulting analysis.

THE BEST REPERTORY

Thinking about a repertory which is said to be the best one, can be explained in different aspects. According to J. H. Clarke, it is impossible to practice homoeopathy without the aid of repertories and the best repertory is the fullest. As commented by C. M. Boger, every repertory is useful but unfortunately, not one is complete. J. T. Kent's comment on this is that the best repertory is that which one makes oneself.

Nevertheless the different comments, considering more towards the practical side, the method one can think of, to be implemented by the majority is that to select a repertory that we wish to use and to confine ourselves to that one and completely master the contents, for the most rapid work. When the physician becomes more familiar with the repertory, it can be exploited to the maximum, using as an aid for the treatment. This knowledge of the repertory can only bring the best results as recommended by Bidwell.

The repertories have their adaptability. Each repertory has its own merits and demerits. Any repertory can be used for treating cases but the knowledge of repertories give way to the logical selection of a repertory on the basis of the availability of symptoms from the patient and the philosophy, representation and collection of information in a repertory, for the best results. Thus we are able to think and interpret the best repertory as it is.