

## HISTORY OF KENT'S REPERTORY

Dr James Tyler Kent, the author of the Repertory of The Homoeopathic Materia Medica. Kent was originally a physician of Eclectic school of medicine, started his professional career at St. Louis ( U.S.A. ) in the year 1871.

In 1878, his wife fell ill She did not respond to any mode of treatment available at that time but, was relieved by Homoeopathic treatment by Dr. RICHARD PHELAN. Kent was very much impressed. This inspired him to become a Homoeopath.

Because of this, he started studying Homoeopathic Philosophy & Fundamental Principles of the system from Dr. PHALEN. Later on, Kent became a follower of Dr. HAHNEMANN, within a short time he became a famous teacher as well as a practitioner of the Homoeopathy.

Kent observed that the logic of Homoeopathic system is not properly followed. He criticized the faulty method of giving more importance to the parts ( i.e. Doctrine of Analogy ).

Kent favored the selection of medicine on the basis of generals and emphasized the importance of generals ( Mental & Physical )

He said, "Man is prior to the organs.....Man is the will and the understanding and the house which he lives in, is his body". So, according to this Kent gave much importance to the generals, in which – first preference was given to the mental symptoms, then to the physical generals and thereafter to the particulars.

During the time of Kent, Repertories of Boenninghausen and Lippe were already in use. Kent also referred Minton's Diseases of Women, Jahr's repertory, Biegler's work, etc. Even though Kent was interested in the form and characters in Lippe's repertory, he was not satisfied with the rubrics and medicines given in it.

The symptom register and Allen's great encyclopedia were so limited that it lacked half of the symptoms

JAHN'S REPERTORY was a repertory of the grand old remedies. It was very good for these, but our pathogenesis had increased so much that, it was no longer a satisfactory work, it did not fill the requirements of his practice. He was not satisfied with any of those repertories available. Noticing the lacunae in the existing repertories, Kent found them unsuitable in his practice. So, Kent decided to make a repertory by himself.

To a certain period of time he was confused concerning a definite order of symptoms. He then finally went through Lippe's work page by page and noted his observations, gained from clinical experience on the margins of the book and also in between the lines. When Kent started teaching Materia Medica in the year 1883, he became more and more familiar with the subject and seriously felt the need for better indexing of the rubrics and medicines.

After this, he wanted to add the missing information and other additions to compile a comprehensive repertory. In order to compile a comprehensive repertory, Kent got hold of the manuscripts most of the other repertories.

For preparing the Repertory Kent collected the material –All that were in earlier repertories, His own notes (prepared from his clinical experience) and simultaneously, he started to verify the symptoms as far as possible

On the other hand, Dr Edmund Jennings Lee, the learned Homoeopath of Philadelphia, was already doing his work on Lippe's Abridged form of a new Repertory. Lee's compilation include – The unreleased 2nd edition of Lippe's book which he procured from him, his personal notes and additions of others including Dr. E. W. Berridge of England

Kent spoke with Dr. Lee to get a clear idea regarding additions, as Lippe's condensed form of repertory was with him. Later, Lippe wanted Kent to work with Lee in producing a comprehensive repertory .

By this time Kent had already completed a repertory of urinary organs, chill, fever and sweat with other sections. Dr Constantine Lippe, the Author of Lippe's Repertory meet Dr Kent and was thoroughly convinced with Kent's idea. Lippe expressed his earnest desire that Dr. Kent & Lee should work jointly to prepare a Repertory.

Lee along with Kent compiled mind and head sections but Kent was not satisfied as this was based more on Boenninghausen's idea of giving generals and modalities at the end of the repertory. Later on, Dr Lee accepted and followed Kent's suggestions. Dr Lee worked very hard for ten years to prepare a Repertory on Kent's logic, but, with passage of time he became exhausted and lost his eye sight. Finally, Lee had to give up the work. When Lee became blind Kent took up Lee's manuscripts and rearranged it according to his plan, the plan was outlined from Lippe's hand book of characteristics. While compiling the work he verified the symptoms as far as possible.

Kent's work grew out from Lippe & Lee's work. Dr. Gladwin, Dr. Minton, Dr. Powel, Dr. Mary & Dr. Arthur also helped him. Dr Pierre Schmidt a student of Kent, was a psychologist helped him in preparing Mind section of the repertory .

For the final arrangement of this repertory, Kent collected all the particulars with the modalities separately in their respective sections. Kent's intention while compiling this work was not to publish it, but to make it use for himself.

While the compilation work was going on, one day - Dr. Biegler & few homoeopaths of Boston came to Kent and were very much impressed to see his work. Dr. Biegler insisted Kent to get it published.

Kent approached Dr. Boericke, the President of Boericke & Tafel U.S.A. showed him manuscripts, and requested to undertake the publication. Dr. Boericke refused and said, "It is a great work and useful I wish we had it, but it will cost too much money to publish and we cannot undertake it". The estimated cost to publish the work was around \$ 9000, , that Kent was unable to afford. Kent became disheartened.

Dr. Biegler, Dr. Kimball & Dr. Thurston came forward to help him. They made a business plan to collect the money at pre-publication cost. Beigler helped Kent to send out circulars to see, if they could secure enough subscribers to justify the publication. It was estimated that around 300 people would buy it. A circular was widely distributed, highlighting the work done by Kent in his repertory and booking the orders at \$ 30 per copy. Around 200 subscribers came forward. So , it was concluded that

it would meet the expenses and finally decided to be published with the hope that it might prove useful to the world.

The publication of Kent's repertory was carried out after a great struggle after which it was published part by part (2 Sections). when the second section was released only 90 continued their subscription. Others felt that the book did not confirm to their expectations. Disheartened Kent decided to get the book published at his own cost.

Kent wrote - "Well, things went on from bad to better, not to worse and the Repertory was born, with much suffering in eyes and head and bodies of both myself and my wife; but of this you need not hear at length"

After a long journey First edition of KENT'S Repertory was published in the year 1897 in sections ( 1428 pages ).

Second edition of KENT'S Repertory was published in 1908 (11 years after 1st edition).

After 2nd edition , Kent started re-arranging the Repertory by adding several new remedies, rubrics, sub rubrics, correcting the grading and verifying the symptoms etc. This exhaustive work finally made Kent so tired that later on he was not able to read or write without the help of his wife. On the other hand he was very much confident about his newly corrected work and wanted to get it published in his life time as a 3rd Edition. But due to untimely death of Dr Kent on 6th June, 1916 the newly developed work could not be published as 3rd Edition.

Kent's remarks about the newly developed 3rd Edition : "...This 3rd Edition completes my life work, I have brought it upto date, I have rearranged and made numerous corrections in addition to adding many new remedies, I have verified every symptom in the book You will find all remedies of any value contained herein, This book is complete". All these corrections were made by him in the three copies of the second edition in his own handwriting. These three corrected manuscripts were later known as ANNOTED COPIES and they remained with Dr. Ehrhart ( publisher ), Dr. Gladwin and Dr. J. S. Pugh.

Dr. Ehrhart with the assistance of Gladwin & Pugh made sincere efforts to get it published as 3rd Edition. Third edition of KENT'S Repertory was published in 1924 ( 8 years after Dr. Kent's death ). Due to carelessness of the publisher, the corrections were not made properly hence, the 3rd Edition remained with errors.

After 3rd Edition, Dr. Gladwin with the help of Clara Louis Kent (Dr. Kent's wife) began the work of comparing and correcting it with handwritten copy (annoted copy) which was in her possession.

Fourth edition of KENT'S Repertory was published in January, 1935 by Gladwin with the help of Mrs. Kent.

After publication of Fourth Edition, Dr. Gladwin gave her annotated copy to Dr. Austin. Dr. Austin passed it to Dr. Pierre Schmidt along with the gold ring which Dr. Kent used to wear during his life time.

Fifth Edition was planned to be published in 1939 but, due to the Second World War it could not be published. Fifth Edition of KENT'S Repertory was published in 1945 by Dr. Ehrhart & Dr. Karl.

Sixth edition of Kent's repertory also known as Sixth American edition was published in 1957 by Dr. Ehrhart & Dr. Karl. Indian Edition of same was published in 1961.

Dr. Pierre Schmidt (U.S.A.) found many serious mistakes in 6<sup>th</sup> American edition as well as in Indian edition

- There were wrong insertions
- Mistakes in alphabetical order, spellings
- Placement of rubrics, subrubrics and
- Errors in grading of medicines.

Dr. Pierre Schmidt made corrections minutely from the original manuscript left by Kent (annotated copy given him by Dr Austin). When the work was almost completed unfortunately, it was stolen.

Dr. DIWAN HARISH CHAND of India succeeded in getting the manuscript, which was in a mutilated form. It was published in May, 1974 in India. This edition is supposed to be 7th Edition of Kent's Repertory but it is called revised edition or FINAL GENERAL REPERTORY OF KENT (13 years after Indian Edition - 1961).

Dr. R P Patel of Kottayam ( Kerala ), INDIA claims that he has also worked on Kent's Repertory. According to Dr. Patel, there are over Thirty Thousand errors in 6th American edition, which he has corrected in 50 years of his Research work. He started noting down corrections since 1951 in his personal copy of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Kent's edition. He claims that he has corrected all errors & has published his repertory- DR.KENT'S REPERTORY OF HOMOEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA CORRECTED AND IMPROVED 6<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN EDITION by DR.R.P.PATEL.