

## BOENNINGHAUSEN, THE FATHER OF THE HOMOEOPATHIC REPERTORY

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Being a legal luminary both as an eminent criminal and civil lawyer, Boenninghausen was a pundit in indexing the items of the studied materials. Providentially the incurable purulent pulmonary tuberculosis brought him to seek medical advice and treatment from his personal doctor-friend, A. Weihe, an eminent Westphalian physician. The doctor was already practising Homoeopathy, the new system of therapeutics in the early nineteenth century in Westphalia. The record shows that the prescription of *Pulsatilla* cured Boenninghausen completely and made him a doyen of homoeopaths.

He studied thoroughly the whole homoeopathic literature and started lay practice in Homoeopathy. His scholastic prolific writings on Homoeopathy attracted clientele from far and wide. His personal contacts with Hahnemann profoundly influenced him to dive deep into the subject of Homoeopathy.

Although Boenninghausen started the study of Homoeopathy in his forty-third year he never hesitated to study medicine through his personal medical friends for whom he started a medical society in Münster. The beneficiaries of his services included many from Europe and the U.S.A., including the royal family members. This enormous good medical work in Boenninghausen's practice made King Friedrich Wilhelm IV to issue a document empowering Boenninghausen to practise medicine.

This medical transformation of Boenninghausen was responsible for being an important corner-stone to the edifice of Homoeopathy. Boenninghausen authored several scientific papers in the contemporary medical journals and seventeen books. In those days to select the *similimum* for a patient was a Herculean task which involved reading of *Materia Medica Pura* several times! Although Hahnemann himself improvised an index-like repertory in Latin, it was very insignificant as a compendium to use in practice.

The present polychrests in the homoeopathic materia medica were then new remedies to the homoeopaths and the joy was eternal for the doctors when the remedies cured the patients. The genius of Boenninghausen flowered into reality when he compiled the first edition of the *Therapeutic Pocket Book* in 1845. Boenninghausen claimed that no less than Hahnemann himself approved his method of repertorization.

Although Kent vehemently opposed the idea of the generalisation of the particulars in the Boenninghausen's method of repertorization, the construction of *Therapeutic Pocket Book* contributed very much towards Kent's *Repertory*, which is essentially from the generals to the particulars.

Apart from it Boenninghausen's definition of a symptom in its sensation, location, modality and concomitance revolutionised the homoeopathic concept of a symptom eternally! Hering was another who objected to the too broad an application of the principle of concomitance or association. But Boenninghausen's avowed object was "to open a way into the wide field of combinations".

Jahr very much utilised the *Therapeutic Pocket Book* and took a good deal of material from it into his repertory. Dunham and Lippe remained close friends of Boenninghausen and exchanged many points of reference with him. Elder Lippe said that Boenninghausen was born not in 1785 but in 1777.

Of the seven sons of Boenninghausen the first two sons took to medicine to the joy of the parents. Boenninghausen had free access to the vast library of Hahnemann not only during Hahnemann's time but also in the post-Hahnemannian period because his eldest son married the adopted daughter of Madame Hahnemann. This matrimonial connection gave Boenninghausen an opportunity to study the unpublished works and case-histories of Hahnemann, a treasure trove one can boast of!

Dr. Klunker and his two colleagues did yeoman service in compiling the *magnum opus*, *Synthetic Repertory*, in the field of repertories. It is hoped that he will shortly complete the work by completing the compilation from the sections on mind to generalities of Kent's *Repertory*. This author is also compiling a repertory of the nosodes which is the first of its kind.

The partially proved drugs in Boenninghausen's *Therapeutic Pocket Book* must be listed with the scientific precision to give the practitioners a greater opportunity for extensive clinical use of the partially proved remedies. This author is preparing such a compilation but the work is taking time for the verification. Thus, the partially proved remedies will be developed into polychrests.

After Kent's *Repertory* was published, many homoeopaths neglected the methodology of Boenninghausen's repertorization. It was not correct to say that Kent's method of repertorization was suitable for the cases with a good number of mental symptoms. Even with the scanty mental symptoms, this author used extensively Kent's *Repertory* and got good results.

Drug relationship is a fascinating field of study in completing a total cure of a patient. This was extensively studied and utilized by Boenninghausen. He proudly said, "I opened a path hitherto untrodden into extensive fields of combinations." Boenninghausen justifies the dedication of the *Therapeutic Pocket Book* to Dr. Eichhorn, the medical minister at that time by saying "the highly esteemed guardian, protector and promoter of science" (Homoeopathy). Baron Clemens Maria Franz von Boenninghausen was born in 1785 and died in 1864 after 79 years of a useful life which was not lived in vain, in the phraseology of Hahnemann.

Boenninghausen's works in the order of their appearance are listed here:

- The Cure of Cholera and Its Preventatives (according to Hahnemann's latest communication to the author). (1831)
- Repertory of the Antipsoric Medicines with a preface by Hahnemann. (1832)
- Summary View of the Chief Sphere of Operation of the Antipsoric Remedies and their Characteristic Peculiarities, as an Appendix to their Repertory. (1833)
- An Attempt at a Homoeopathic Therapy of Intermittent Fevcr. (1833)
- Contributions to a Knowledge of the Peculiarities of Homoeopathic Remedies. (1833)
- Homoeopathic Diet and a Complete Image of a Disease (for the non-professional public). (1833)
- Homoeopathy, a Manual for the Non-Medical Public. (1834)
- Repertory of the Medicines which are not Antipsoric. (1835)
- Attempt at Showing the Relative Kinship of Homoeopathic Medicines. (1836)
- Therapeutic Manual for Homoeopathic Physicians, for Use at the Sickbed and in the Study of the *Materia Medica Pura*. (1846)
- Brief Instructions for Non-Physicians as to the Prevention and Cure of Cholera. (1849)
- The Two Sides of the Human Body and Relationship—Homoeopathic Studies. (1853)
- The Hon. Domestic Physician in Brief Therapeutic Diagnoses. An Attempt. (1853)
- The Homoeopathic Treatment of Whooping Cough in Its Various Forms. (1860)
- The Aphorisms of Hippocrates, with Notes by a Homoeopath. (1863)
- Attempt at a Homoeopathic Therapy of Intermittent and Other Fevers, especially for would-be homoeopaths. Second augmented and revised edition. Part I. The Pyrexia. (1864)
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