

## SYNTHETIC REPERTORY—MAGNUM OPUS IN THE HOMOEOPATHIC LITERATURE

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Doctors Horst Barthel and Will Klunker have done a monumental work in compiling the sections of mind, generalities, sleep, genitalia and other general symptoms like food, desires and aversions from stomach section into three volumes. Most fascinating aspect is the inclusion of German and French translations of the rubrics in addition to English. Many new rubrics and several new remedies are brought into the *Synthetic Repertory* so that one can get new remedies after repertorial analysis of the general symptoms. Repertorization, generals to particulars of a patient's symptoms, is not possible because only the general symptoms of Kent's *Repertory* have been improved and additions of remedies and rubrics have been made.

This author studied and used the *Synthetic Repertory* in his clinics for six months and maintained only analysis of general and particular symptoms of the patients which were verified from materia medicas of Clarke and Boericke, and found that the remedies added in the *Synthetic Repertory* were curative to the patients. When this author learnt that Dr. K. Srinivasan of Madras had purchased the *Synthetic Repertory*, this author borrowed the volumes for critical study for one year.

Homoeopaths are using extensively Ars., Bell., and Bry. etc. now because Boenninghausen published *Therapeutic Pocket Book*! Similarly the *Synthetic Repertory* will enable the practitioners to use many of the partially proved homoeopathic remedies to use widely. Thereby the number of polychrests will increase and the scope of individualisation of both the drugs and the patients will be remarkably increased. Thus, those partially proved drugs are further proved, and their therapeutic potentiality is verified!

This author published a useful article on the improvement of the Kent's *Repertory* in THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS in 1971. A copy of the reprint was sent to Drs. Barthel and Klunker when they were compiling the *Synthetic Repertory*. Unfortunately, they did not make use of the suggestions made in the article. It has been widely accepted that Kent's *Repertory* is one of the most valuable books of reference in Homoeopathy. In all the repertories, both particular and general, Kent's *Repertory* has been acclaimed as the most valuable. It needs to be made up-to-date and complete in certain items particularly with a view to make the work more useful and easy for reference. Indexing the rubrics for easy reference, preparing cross references of the rubrics of every chapter and using modern terminology for some of the outdated pathological ambiguous rubrics are a few of the important items of the work suggested by this author.

Dr. Gibson Miller (senior) marked elaborate cross references in his

personal copy of Kent's *Repertory* and it is available in the library of the Scotch Faculty of Homoeopathy, Glasgow. Dr. Elizabeth Wright Hubbard and Dr. A. Boyson attempted indexing the rubrics for one chapter and it was published in the *Journal of the American Institute of Homoeopathy*. Dr. R. P. Patel and Dr. P. Sankaran also published useful works on the subject. This author discussed the above mentioned items of work with Drs. Hubbard and Boyson in 1966. They also felt the urgent need for such an important research. The editors of the *Synthetic Repertory* did not implement the above mentioned changes. It would be more useful if such changes were done in future editions.

There is another interesting issue worth considering. The authors of *Synthetic Repertory* claim, that Dr. Pierre Schmidt the owner of Kent's hand corrected *Repertory*, advised and helped them in compilation and gave them his personal copy for incorporation of the corrections in the *Synthetic Repertory*. Dr. Diwan Harish Chand published Kent's final general *Repertory* in which he claimed that the corrections by Kent were faithfully incorporated by making use of Dr. Pierre Schmidt's copy of Kent's corrected *Repertory*. Sri C. S. Sandhu published 7th edition of Kent's *Repertory* in which he claimed that with the help of Kent's corrected copy which was made available to him through Dr. K. C. Mittal, the corrections were faithfully included in the 7th edition.

Dr. Will Klunker published an interesting article in *Klassische Homöopathie* (Jan.-Feb. 1981) comparing *Synthetic Repertory* with the repertories published by Dr. Diwan Harish Chand and Sri C. S. Sandhu. He selected a number of rubrics from the section of mind and showed that the contents of the rubrics of the repertories published by Chand and Sandhu were lacking. He raised a pertinent question as to why the repertories published by Chand and Sandhu could not incorporate the changes made by Kent if they were possessing the *Repertory* corrected by Kent. A small booklet, *Additions to Kent's Repertory* was published by Jain Publishers, who claimed to have collected the corrections from Kent's corrected copy. Dr. Diwan Harish Chand filed a suit against the publishers for plagiarism!

The editors of the *Synthetic Repertory* compiled the material not only from Kent's corrected copy with Dr. Pierre Schmidt, but also from fifteen other sources, like Knerr, Boenninghausen, Jahr, Gallavardin, Stanfer, Boericke, Stephenson, Mezger, Allen, Clarke, Julian, Kunzli, Kent, Schmidt and Hahnemann. Whereas, Diwan Harish Chand and Sandhu incorporated the changes available from the Kent's handwritten corrected copy.

*Synthetic Repertory* is a competent compilation of general symptoms on the format of Kent's *Repertory*. Certainly it is not complete and can be improved upon by making use of the suggestions by the doctors after a thorough use of the *Synthetic Repertory*. In the subsequent editions this author's suggestions published nearly fifteen years ago can also be incorporated.

Nevertheless, this author gives below some of the mistakes that crept into the *Synthetic Repertory*. This author fails to understand why four gradations of the remedies were brought into the *Synthetic Repertory* instead of three classical grades used in Kent's *Repertory*. In future editions fourth grade can be removed and included in the third grade. This is to maintain the format of Kent's *Repertory*.

There is a change in the *Synthetic Repertory* while compiling the 'desires and aversions' section of food from the 'stomach' section and 'food aggravations and ameliorations' from the section of 'generalities' of Kent's *Repertory*. The items like coffee, sweets, and fats etc. are given in the alphabetical list under 'desires and aversions' in Kent's *Repertory*. In the *Synthetic Repertory* this scheme is changed which is inconvenient to doctors used to Kent's *Repertory*. If possible in future edition of the *Synthetic Repertory*, the scheme in Kent's *Repertory* should be followed. Although the sources Clarke and Boericke are mentioned in the compilation work of the *Synthetic Repertory*, the important rubrics from Clarke's *Repertory* like 'tall' from the section of 'temperament' and 'pregnancy' from the section of 'causation' are not included in it. Similarly the rubric from Boericke's repertory 'butter milk aggravation' is not included in the *Synthetic Repertory*.

Aggravations and ameliorations of the general symptoms from the moon phases is a beautiful work compiled by Dr. Pierre Schmidt. This valuable work has not been utilized by the authors of the *Synthetic Repertory*. This useful work can be incorporated in future edition of the *Synthetic Repertory*, because the aggravation and ameliorations compiled by Dr. Pierre Schmidt are general symptoms. This author further improved Dr. Schmidt's moon phases and it is expected to be published shortly.

Some of the rare, strange and peculiar symptoms from other sections of Kent's *Repertory* like, 'constipation with awful anxiety', 'dysuria in newly married women' and 'hanging down limbs amel.' etc. should be included in future edition.

This author verified English version of the preface and introduction of the *Synthetic Repertory* with the texts of German and French editions and found that English version needed many corrections. The *Synthetic Repertory* has trilingual indices with thumb index in the alphabetical order in each language for the rubrics. The indices are not complete and there are many omissions. In volume two, 'Sleep Dreams and Sexuality' is missing in English index. The rubric 'abrupt' is not listed in the three language indices.

In the text the rubrics are in the alphabetical order in English language. German and French doctors who are used to Kent's *Repertory* have to look into the respective indices for the page number of the particular rubric, which are not complete! This is an inconvenience to the German and French doctors who do not know English.

Cross references to the listed rubrics in the text are an essential part of a repertory. Many references have not been added. Some of the available

cross references in Kent's are not mentioned. To cite an example, the rubric 'abandoned' is not mentioned as a cross reference to the rubric 'forsaken'. Similarly one has to search for the rubrics 'industrious', 'busy' and 'occupation amel.' in the mind section to verify the particular remedy while doing repertorization. All these rubrics are not mentioned in the cross reference in the *Synthetic Repertory* though they are listed in the *Synthetic Repertory*. Deserted, forsaken, are separate rubrics under delusions in Kent's *Repertory* which is also listed in the *Synthetic Repertory* but cross reference is not mentioned.

The rubrics, absent-minded, forgetful, memory weak and ideas deficiency of, are listed in the *Synthetic Repertory* but there is no cross reference.

Agg. and Am. are abbreviations for the words aggravation and amelioration, used in the *Synthetic Repertory*. In Kent's *Repertory*, the word aggravation is not mentioned except in a few cases. In the *Synthetic Repertory* this is a new facility, although a deviation from Kent's format. In rubrics of time a.m. and p.m. have been used in Kent's *Repertory* whereas in the *Synthetic Repertory* twenty four hours have been used for the convenience of German and French doctors.

'Affected' is a new rubric in the *Synthetic Repertory*. The meaning is offended easily or too much sensitiveness. The remedies under the rubric 'affected', in the *Synthetic Repertory*: Alum., Carbo. v., Graph., Petroleum and Platina are not in the rubric of 'sensitiveness' in the *Synthetic Repertory*.

In the *Synthetic Repertory* under the rubric 'affectionate', the cross references, 'love' and 'indifference', are mentioned. The cross references are not correct. Usually the cross references refer to the rubrics of similar meaning. 'Excitement' as a cross reference to the rubric 'agitation' is not mentioned in the *Synthetic Repertory*. In the *Synthetic Repertory* the rubric 'agility' is mentioned as a cross reference to 'activity' which is incorrect. For the rubric 'air castles' the cross reference 'theorising' is not mentioned in the *Synthetic Repertory*.

In the sub-rubric 'anger suppressed' in Kent's *Repertory*, Aur., Cham., Ign., Sep. and Staph. are listed. Whereas, in the *Synthetic Repertory* Aur., Ip., and Staph. are only mentioned. Sufficient reason for the omission of Cham., Ign. and Sep. is not mentioned, in the introduction or on the same page. The sub-rubric, 'anger', 'indignation with', under the rubric 'ailments from anger' is ambiguous. It is a new rubric. This is because indignation is a righteous anger and ailments from indignation is enough.

Sub-rubric 'dreams unpleasant' under the rubric 'indignation' is ambiguous. Moreover, in volume No. 3 there is 'sleep and sexuality' rubric. This rubric is not mentioned as a cross reference. When there is a separate volume for the general symptoms of 'sleep and sexuality', this rubric should have been transferred there giving cross reference. Usually cross references refer to the rubrics of the same volume. To search another volume for the cross reference is cumbersome. This author fails to understand why the three sleek volumes

could not be bound into one. Each page contains two columns and the column numbers are given out as page numbers giving a misleading impression about the size of the book.

'Ailments from debauchery' is a new rubric. There is no mention of cross reference to the rubric 'sexual excesses, after' in the second volume. Nat. mur. patient who is mentioned in Kent's *Materia Medica* in love affair with coachman is not included in the rubrics 'sexual excesses, after' or 'debauchery' in the *Synthetic Repertory*. A quotation from page 730 of Kent's *Materia Medica* (American edition) justifies the argument: "She is unable to control her affections and falls in love with a married man. She knows that it is foolish, but lies away with love for him. She falls in love with coachman, she knows that she is unwise, but cannot help it." Nat. mur. is in the first grade, in the rubric 'sexual excesses, after' in Kent's *Repertory*.

Generally for alcoholism or for mental aberrations in the drunkards, the rubrics in Kent's *Repertory* are 'dipsomania', 'manin-a-potu (delirium tremens)' and 'insanity in drunkards'. In the *Synthetic Repertory* 'ailments from dipsomania' is mentioned. This seems to be ambiguous. The cross references to the above rubrics are not mentioned. 'Timidity' is not mentioned as cross reference to the rubric 'embarrassed' in the *Synthetic Repertory*.

'Ailments from disappointment' is a new rubric in the *Synthetic Repertory*. The sub-rubrics 'new' and 'old' should be replaced with words of 'recent' and 'past' in future edition. In this *Repertory* the rubric ailments from discords' and its sub-rubrics are additions. In volume No. 2 English index of 'Sleep, Dreams and Sexuality' is missing. These are the few mistakes and there are many more in the three volumes. This author will be glad to supply a list if the editors care to bring out a thorough revised edition in future.

The costliest book in Homoeopathy is the *Synthetic Repertory* (about Rs. 5000/-) in three sleek volumes. Even Patel's *Audio-visual Repertory* which comprises metal sheets in strips is not that much! The cost of labour in the West is acrimoniously exorbitant! The editors of the *Synthetic Repertory* richly deserve kudos for their excellent work. Dr. Kurt Hochstetter's 6B edition of the *Organon* when printed in the West was priced at Rs. 75/-, but when it was printed in India, the price was Rs. 15/-, a throw away price! Similarly if any publisher undertakes the task of printing the *Synthetic Repertory* in India, millions of doctors in India will be able to afford it. Then only the efforts of the editors of the *Synthetic Repertory* will be fulfilled!

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