

## ROLE OF REPERTORY IN PRACTICAL UTILITY OF MATERIA MEDICA

### **Introduction:**

When Dr. Hahnemann was involved in assessing the data of poisonings, he found that the drugs clearly affect many different systems and organs of the body at the same time including emotions and mental faculties apparently without any reference to a pre-determined physiological pattern.

In 1790 when Dr. Hahnemann was translating Cullen's materia medica he found that Prof. William Cullen stated the action of CINCHONA relied upon its effects upon the stomach. This single statement greatly puzzled Hahnemann. He was well aware of the fact that Cullen was wrong but Cullen was the Professor of Medicine in Edinburg and was a man of such a crowning glory that he was regarded as the highest authority in all medical matters. Sometimes, he was also called as Scottish Hippocrate. To solve this question Hahnemann himself took the Cinchona bark. He found that Cullen was wrong. It was not the attack on mucous membrane of the stomach that cured fever.

From this incidence he became his own laboratory for testing the drugs, so as to confirm or deny the assertions of other medical writers. In this way the drug proving started.

The accounts of first provings were published in 1805 as a long essay "Fragmenta de viribus Medicamentorum Positivis" the second part of which contained the indexing or we can say the first Homoeopathic Repertory .

From that time the era of drug proving started and continuing till today. In past 200 years large no. of drugs were proved and also a large no. of indices to indexing those drugs were prepared. But unfortunately homoeopathy or Homoeopaths have not formed a close group. From beginning they have been divided into different schools. Some of them give more importance to mental sphere, some are giving more importance to cause while some are giving more importance to effects and the process goes on continuously. With these different types of views different types of Materia Medica and their indices and Repertories have come in to existence.

Let us now first study about Materia Medica. It is a branch of medical science which deals with the origin of drugs, preparation of drugs, effect of drugs on human being, their dosage and their mode of administration.

Homoeopathic Materia Medica is a very fascinating and exhausting and also a mysterious one. Its simplicity, its vastness, its apparent similarity of symptoms in different medicines, often throw a tremendous challenge to the neophytes. One can realize the vastness only after going through 138 pages of Sulphur in Allens Encyclopaedia or 99 pages of the same in Hering Guiding Symptoms.

Hahnemann has clearly stated the nature of Homoeopathic Materia Medica in Organon of Medicine.

In aphorism 143 it has been clearly described that how to develop the symptoms of drugs tested on healthy individuals a considerable number of simple medicines and carefully and faithfully registered all the diseases elements and symptoms they are capable of developing as artificial disease produces then only we have a true materia medica collection of real pure, reliable modes of action of simple substances.

In aphorism 111 it has been described that the medicinal substances act in a morbid changes they produce in the healthy human body according to fixed, eternal laws of nature and by virtue of these are enabled to produce certain reliable disease symptoms each according to its own peculiar character.

After testing a good number of simple medicines on healthy human being and carefully and faithfully recording all altered sensations and functions experienced by the provers, all the subjective and objective symptoms, Homoeopathic Materia Medica has been prepared. Homoeopathic Materia Medica may be regarded as a storehouse of every action and reaction of drugs.

As the materia medica may be regarded as storehouse of all the properties, action and reaction of drugs and all their information can be extracted from different sources. Following are the important sources from which the information regarding the drugs can be obtained.

1. Empirical.
2. Knowledge of chemistry
3. Knowledge of toxicology.
4. Animal experimentation
5. Plant experimentation
6. Clinical experience
7. Proving on healthy human beings.

Let us unfold the details-

#### **Empirical:**

This is based on guess work which attempts to expound the general therapeutic values of the drugs. From the time of Dioscorides (60 A.D.) the medicinal properties were known as diuretics, cathartic, antispasmodic etc. No positive proof was available about the individual drug properties.

As for example, all the red looking plants act better on blood. If the plant flower in summer, then the symptoms produced by the drug prepared from the same plant will have aggravation period in summer.

#### **Knowledge of chemistry**

It gives a clue to the pharmacological action but a total concept is not derived thereby, because a living organism is something different from the chemical factory. Each moment a series of reactions are occurring in the living being which can not be possible in the biggest chemical factory of the world. Moreover, mere chemical knowledge of a substance is not at all a sure guide to its application for the curative purpose of a sick individual.

#### **Knowledge of toxicology:**

This obtained from unnatural use and accidental overdosing of drugs.

#### **Animal experimentations:**

From this source objective symptoms of certain drugs including pathological changes can be observed.

#### **Plant experimentations:**

Here the knowledge is gathered by studying the effects of drugs on plant cell, plant chromosomes and plant chemistry. The effect of drug on the plant viruses and fungi is also included under its pathogenesis.

#### **Clinical experience:**

If some existing symptoms disappear or some new symptoms appear which do not belong to the drug pathogenesis when a medicine is applied for curative purpose, such clinical symptoms constitute a good source of Materia Medica.

#### **Proving on human beings:**

By proving the dynamic drugs on healthy human beings, the real and pure effects of drug substances can be obtained. This is the most scientific and authentic way of collecting knowledge of drugs.

This forms the real backbone while constructing the Materia Medica of Homoeopathy.

Different types of Material Medica have been developed in homoeopathy. Dr. Hughes criticized Hahnemann's anatomical schema of arrangement of symptoms. Hahnemann collected all proving symptoms from the day-books of the provers and compiled those in anatomical order from head to foot.

Dr. Hughes argued that it is an unnatural and artificial arrangement, as when an artist paints a family group arranging the noses of all the members in one part of the picture, all the hands in another, the ears all together and so on.

Many erudite through meticulous study have tried in many ways to make the Materia Medica comprehensive and easy to remember, like

- Materia Medica of Proving.
- Picture type Materia Medica
- Clinical Materia Medica
- Therapeutic Materia Medica
- Comparative Materia Medica
- Key-note type Materia Medica
- Physiological Materia Medica
- Schematic (anatomical) Materia Medica

According to the mode of presentation, we find the following types of Materia Medica:-

**i. Materia Medica of proving:**

1. Materia Medica Pura by Hahnemann.
2. Condensed Materia Medica by Hering.

**ii. Materia Medica of physiological action:**

1. A Textbook of Materia Medica and Therapeutics by Cowperthwaite.
2. A Manual of Pharmacodynamics by Hughes.
3. Physiological Materia Medica by Burt.

**iii. Clinical Materia Medica :**

1. A clinical Materia Medica by Farrington.
2. A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica by Clarke.
3. Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica with Repertory by W.Boericke & Oscar Boericke.
4. Special Pathology and Therapeutic Hints by Raue.

**iv. Therapeutic type of Materia Medica :**

1. Homoeopathic Therapeutics by Lilienthal.

2. Practical Homoeopathic Therapeutics by Dewey.

**v. Schematic (anatomical) Materia Medica :**

1. Materia Medica Pura by Hahnemann.
2. The Guiding Symptoms of our Materia Medica by Hering.
3. Encyclopaedia of Pure Materia Medica by T.F. Allen.
4. A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica by Clarke.
5. Textbook of Materia Medica by Lippe.
6. Handbook of Materia Medica and Homoeopathic Therapeutics by T.F. Allen.

**vi. Key-note Materia Medica :**

1. Key-notes of Leading Remedies by H.C.Allen.
2. A Primer of Materia Medica by T.F.Allen.
3. Synoptic Key to Materia Medica by Boger.
4. Characteristic Materia Medica by Burt.
5. Key-notes and Red line symptoms of the Materia Medica by Lippe.

**vii. Comparative Materia Medica :**

1. The comparative Materia Medica by Farrington.
2. Comparative Materia Medica by Gross.
3. Leaders of Homoeopathic Therapeutics by Nash.

**viii. Picture type Materia Medica :**

1. Homoeopathic Drug Pictures by M.L.Tyler.
2. Lectures on Materia Medica with New Remedies by J.T.Kent.
3. Homoeopathic Materia Medica of graphical Drug Pictures by Pulford.

Now let us proceed to gather knowledge on Repertory. The word 'Repertory' has originated from the Latin word 'REPERTORIUM' which means "an inventory, a table or a compendium where the contents are so arranged that they are easy to find. Hence Homoeopathic Repertory is an index to the huge mass of symptoms of various drugs and the various symptoms can be traced easily and accurately according to the requirement. It adds nothing, changes nothing, but serves merely as a guide to the mass. All of us are using one Repertory in every case before prescribing. Most of us use only our own mental Repertory which is naturally limited because of limited capacity of Human mind.

The earliest Repertory, as mentioned already was born as early as 1805, when Hahnemann published in Latin in his famous "fragmenta de viribus medicamentorum positivis" the first part of which contained symptoms, observed and the second part formed the index or Repertory.

It must be noted that Hahnemann himself was the first to make a Repertory and that he did have a Repertory to use in his daily life. He had four volumes of this reference book consisting of 4239 pages.

Around the last part of eighteenth century Hahnemann was acutely feeling the need of a guiding index or Repertory but he was in doubt regarding the nature and form of the index. He asked his different disciples to prepare a suitable Repertory.

Ruckert, Gross, Jahr and Boenninghausen were his most valuable disciples at that time. At the same period he asked them to work out that project.

In 1829 he assigned an young doctor Earnst Ferdinand Ruckert to arrange a Repertory of the remedies. This was to form the last volume of the chronic diseases. Rockert worked on it from 1829-1830 and his work was constantly checked and consulted on the bedside by Hahnemann, but his attempt was not successful and has remained limited to a manuscript form, housed now in haels Museum in Rober Bosch Hospital, Stuttgart in Germany.

It is said that in 1834 Hahnemann employed Dr. Jahr to complete the second edition of chronic diseases and also to lay the foundation of Repertory and Encyclopedia of symptoms.

As Hahnemann was hard taskmaster and whenever he entrusted any work to his disciples. He demanded an exactitude and sincerity which could be found only in a person who would be a devoted to science. Very soon he began to complaint of Jahr's hastiness and inexactitude. He had set high hoped on him and expected to finish a standard Homoeopathic Lexicon. Jahr published his first Repertory in 1835 in German in two volumes containing 1052 and 1254 pages.

While Hahnemann was fumbling with the development of a suitable form of index or Repertory. Boenninghausen's keen intellect was already busy of finding a suitable reportorial index for guidance in his own practice. Very soon Hahnemann was able to recognize the genius of Boenninghausen. Boenninghausen has been described as a most able and most faithful disciple of Hahnemann. After being disappointed in Jahr, Hahnemann gave him every assistance and encouragement. Boenninghausen was one of the few remarkable men without whom the *Science of Homoeopathy* have been deprived of a vital link. He was 45 when he started his education in Homoeopathy. He was desparately ill in 1828. At that time he did not know a word about Homoeopathy. About a year latter he was found hard at work with provings, writings and curing patients.

In 1832 he prepared the first Repertory which was the progenitor of later repertories.

The latter year saw different Repertories complied by different authors as outlined below:

- 1832- Boenninghausen's Repertory of the Anti-psorics with a preface by Hahnemann.
- 1833- Glazor: First Alphabetical Pocket Repertory Leipzing with 165 pages.
- 1834- Weber-pescher: Repertory of Purely pathogenetic effects-prefaced by Hahnemann-376 pages.
- 1835- Jahr's Repertory, as assigned to him by Hahnemann, consisted of three volumes containing 1052 pages in the first, 1254 pages in the second and 200 pages in the last volume.
- 1835- Boenninghausen: Repertory of medicines which are not anti-psoric.
- 1836- Boenninghausen: An attempt at showing the relative kinship of Homoeopathic Medicines (VERWANDSCHAFTEN REPERTORIUM)
- 1837- Ruoff: 236 pages. A Repertory published at Stuttgart.
- 1838- A Repertory published in English Language in Allentown Academy by C.Hering.
- 1839- Ruoff: 254 pages. A Repertory of Nosology translated to German by Okie Humphry and published in English in America.
- 1843- Laffittee: One of the first Parisian Homoeopaths, who complied. A Homoeopathic Repertory of Symptomatology- (first original repertory in French).
- 1845- Boenninghausen's famous Therapeutic Pocket-Book Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book was translated in English by Dr. Allen published another edition with modification. The last and current edition was published by Dr. H.A. Roberts of Connecticut U.S.A. in 1935 and he edited it and made some modifications.

- 1847- Hempel's Boenninghausen – 500 pages.
- 1847- Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book edited by Okie.
- 1847- Jahr's Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica and Repertory edited P.F. Curie.
- 1848- Clofar Muller: Systematic alphabetical Repertory 940 pages.
- 1849- Mure: Rio de Janeiro 367 pages.
- 1851- Bryant: 352 pages. New York an alphabetical Repertory- A Pocket Manual of Repertory of Homoeopathic Medicine.
- 1853- Possar: 700 pages: A Repertory of characteristic Homoeopathic Remedies published at Cothen.
- 1853- Jahr's New Manual or Symnptomen-Codex- VoVIII (Repertory) translated and edited by Hempel and Quin.
- 1853- Dysentery and its Repertory of Medicine by Fred Humphreys.
- 1854- A Lippe- 144 pages, U.S.A. A Repertory of comparative Materia Medica.
- 1859- Cipher Repertory: 600 pages – by English Homoeiopath's Enlarged edition in 1878 containing 1030 pages by Drysdale, Atkins Dudgeon and Stokes.
- 1859- Jahr's New Manual of the Homieopathic Materia Medica with Possart's additions- fifth edition revised and enlarged by the author and translated and edited by Hempel.

About this time in England were known the following repertories:

- (a) Buck's Regional Symptomatology and Clinical dictionary.
- (b) Hempel's Repertory
- (c) Repertory by Curie
- (d) Hahnemann Society Repertory, by Drysdale-Dudgeon.

About this time the American Homoeopaths were also busy in making Repertories.

- 1873- Berridge: Repertory of the Eyes published in England.
- 1874- Garnier of Nimes: Homoeolexicon in two volumes.
- 1976- Repertory of the New Remedies by C.P. Hart published by Boericke and Tafel. Based on Hale's special symptomatology and therapeutics.
- 1879- C.Lippe published his famous Repertory of the More Characteristic symptoms of the Materia Medica-pages 322, (Indian Edition has 438 pages)
- 1880- T.F.Allen's Symptom Register.
- 1880- Repertory to the Modalities by Samuel Worcester M.D.
- 1881- Hering's Analytical Repertory (Symptoms of Mind)
- 1883- Repertory of Intermittent fever by William A.Allen.
- 1884- 1<sup>st</sup> Edition- Cough and Expectoration by Lee and Clark.
- 1894- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition- Cough and Expectoration by Lee and Clark.
- 1885- Alphabetical Repertory by Father Muller (First repertory published in India)

- 1888- Pathogenetic and Clinical Repertory of the Symptoms of Head by Neidhard.
- 1890- Gentry: The Repertory of Concordances in six volumes-5500 pages.
- 1890- Classified Index of the Materia Medica for a Urogenital and Venereal Diseases by Carleton M.D. and Coles M.D.
- 1896- Knerr's Repertory to the Hering's Guiding Symptoms.
- 1897- Kent: Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica First Edition-1349 pages.
- 1900- Boger-English translation of Boenninghausen's Repertory of Anti psoric remedies.
- 1905- Boger's Boenninghausen's Characteristics and Repertory
- 1908- Clinic Repertory by P.W. Shedd M.D.
- 1920- Repertory Section of Bell's Diarrhoea.
- 1931- Synoptic Key of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica by C.M. Boger.
- 1935-1937- Second and enlarged edition of the Characteristics and Repertory by C.M. Boger-Boger's times of Remedies and Moon Phases-Published by Salzer & Co., Calcutta.

Recently a few repertories have been published with Kent's Repertory as the base.

- 1929- N.M.Chaudhury's Materia Medica and Repertory Piere's Materia Medica and Repertory.
- 1963- Pathak's Repertory.
- 1963- Repertory of the New Remedies by Stephens.
- 1987- Synthetic Repertory edited by H.Barthel in 3 volumes. It covers (1) mental Symptoms (2) Generalities (3) Sleep, Dreams and Sexuality.
- 1990- Kent's General Repertory by Kunzli.
- 1993- Synthesis Repertorium Homeopathicum Syntheticum by Dr. Frederich Schroyens.
  - Clinical Repertories of New Homoeopathic Remedies by Dr. O.A.Julian.
  - Index of Aggravations and Ameliorations by Neatby and Stonham.
- 1996- Complete Repertory by Roger Von Zandvoort.

### ***Role of Repertory in Practical utility of Materia Medica –***

As Homoeopathic Materia Medica is a vast subject. Till now about more than 3800 drugs have been proved and the process is still going on. It is very difficult to memorize even hundred medicines. So it becomes very important to use the Repertory as an important tools which helps a physician not only to find a similimum in a shortest possible time, but facilitates the physician to use the materia medica in its full width. Repertory makes the study of Materia Medica more interesting comprehensive and affordable or we can say easy.

With help of Repertory we can study materia medica in different ways that makes it more useful and practical.

- a. Complete study.
- b. Comparative study.
- c. Differential study

- d. Single rubric study.
- e. Full format study.

(1) **Complete study :**

We can have the complete materia medica of a drug by taking all the rubric of all the chapters that contains that specific drug. This complete materia medica will be a unique one and provides the physician with all the available symptoms of the drug which are of practical use and those can not be find in any single materia medica. Complete materia medica prepared from Repertory also provide the information regarding the marked sphere of action of a drug.

For example, after preparing the complete materia medica of Phosphorus it has been found that there are 12094 rubrics or symptoms in **Complete Repertory** where Phosphorus is found. Out of these 12094 rubrics more than 50% are located in chapters like mind., generalities, head, face, stomach, abdomen chest etc. On this basis we can say that the Phosphorus has a remarkable action on the stomach, abdomen, chest, head, face and extremities.

For example, Chapter vertigo in complete Repertory contains 147 rubrics or sub-rubrics where the medicine Phosphorus can be found.

A detail account is given below.

Name of the Section	No. of Rubrics / sub-rubrics covered by Phosphorus.
MIND	1360
VERTIGO	147
HEAD	324
HEAD PAIN	575
EYE	309
VISION	152
EAR	166
HEARING	26
NOSE	274
SMELL	15

FACE	484
MOUTH	299
TASTE	68
TEETH	175
THROAT	184
EXTERNAL THROAT	45
STOMACH	619
ABDOMEN	534
RECTUM	276
STOOL	117
BLADDER	123
KIDNEY	28
PROSTATE GLAND	14
URETHRA	72
URINE	119
GENITALIA (Male)	176
GENITALIA (Female)	330
LARYNX AND TRACHEA	138
SPEECH & VOICE	57
RESPIRATION	139
COUGH	272
EXPECTORATION	112
CHEST	645
BACK	429
EXTREMITIES	1005
EXTREMITIES PAIN	635
SLEEP	252

CHILL	111
FEVER	146
PERSPIRATION	109
SKIN	390
GENERALITIES	1444

## 2. Comparative Study:

Boenninghausen was the man who contributed the gradation of drugs to the Homoeopathic world. With the help of this gradation of drugs only we can compare the value of different drugs manifesting the same symptom.

As Arsenic, Phosphorus and Pulsatilla are the drugs those are running very close to each other, but when we compare these drugs in vomiting, we find that Arsenic is more important for vomiting during night, during diarrhoea, aggravated after drinking and eating, during heat, while riding in a carriage and green in colour etc. Phosphorus is more important when vomiting after drinking and eating, bitter, bloody and sour. Pulsatilla is more valuable when vomiting is during headache, frothy and of mucous.

## 3. Differential Study:

This study facilitate us to differentiate the comparable drugs from one another. As we see that Arsenic, Phosphorus, and Pulsatilla runs very close to each other but with the help of Repertory we can differentiate them at any place and at any level. Suppose in stomach disorders Arsenic is indicated when it is due to intake of cold drinks, Pulsatilla is indicated when it is after fatty food and Phosphorus is indicated when stomach is disordered from abuse of salt.

In the same way we see if the madness is one's suppression of menses Pulsatilla is indicated, when madness is with paralysis Phosphorus comes there, while Arsenic is indicated when madness is due to pain.

In the same way when we go through the fainting we find that Phosphorus is there when fainting is due to odors and due to hunger. Arsenic is indicated when fainting is from haematemesis, after vomiting and aggravation by motion, while Pulsatilla is indicated when the fainting occurs in warm room or close room.

## 4. Single rubric Study:

It is a well known fact that classical approach is always the best in Homoeopathy but there are certain occasions or situations where we have to adopt the mode of key note prescribing or depend upon the same. In this aspect this study of single rubrics of a medicine gives an important aid. For example in chapter Generalities of Complete Repertory, it has been observed that Phosphorus is found at 53 places as a single medicine ex.

Bathing, washing, head of.

Brights disease, albuminous nephritis, anesthesia with.

Trembling, sexual excess after etc.

## 5. Full Format Study:

Here we can study a medicine with the help of Repertory in respect to all the aspects like time, modalities, causations, concomitants, extensions, location, character etc. This type of study can not be made with the help of any existing materia medica. This kind of study proves to be very beneficial as it gives all the information regarding the medicine in all the aspect. In Phosphorus in stomach pain full format study gives the following data.

## **Stomach**

### **Pain-Phos (3)**

Morning- Phos (2)

bed in – Phos

walking while Phos

Evening- Phos

Night- Phos

9pm – untill midnight – Phos

air open – Phos

bread after – Phos

cold drinks

amel- Phos

cold food after

amel-Phos

coughing from – Phos

Dinner

Before-Phos

After – Phos

Eating

While – Phos

After – Phos

2-3 hrs. after –Phos

Amel- Phos

Ice Creams

Amel-Phos

Menses

During-Phos

Paroxysmal-Phos

Riding in a carriage

After-Phos

Sitting

While-Phos

Swallowing on  
    At cardiac end of stomach-Phos

Vexation  
    After-Phos

Violent-Phos

Walking  
    While-Phos

Warm food  
    Egg-Phos

Extending  
    To back-Phos  
    Chest into – Phos  
    Hypochondria to-Phos  
    Burning –Phos  
    Cramping-Phos  
    Cutting-Phos  
    Gnawing-Phos  
    Pressing-Phos  
    Stitching-Phos

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