

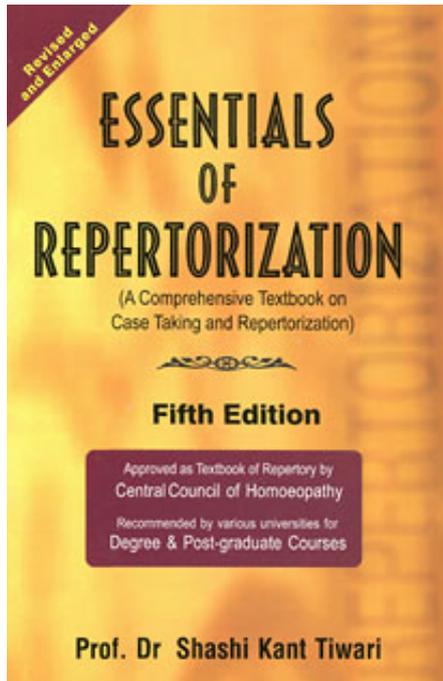
# Shashi Kant Tiwari, S. Essentials of Repertorization

Leseprobe

[Essentials of Repertorization](#)

von [Shashi Kant Tiwari, S.](#)

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# Repertorization: Principles and Practice

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

*'May the devil take all the repertories. They destroy that which belongs together and unite points, which are foreign to each other, only for the sake of adhering to the A, B, C of children's reading books. In order to be able to form a characteristic picture with its lights and shades from them, one would have to carry in one's head the whole Materia Medica Pura ready for use, and then the repertories would be of less value than ever.'*

This is the view that Dr Aegidi held on the repertory, which he communicated to master Hahnemann in a letter. Dr Aegidi, who practiced homoeopathy in the nineteenth century, was not convinced about the use and practicability of the repertory in finding out the *simillimum*. Even today, many practitioners stick to the same view. To be a successful practitioner, Dr Aegidi held, one should thoroughly master the *Materia Medica Pura*.

Dr Aegidi's view, however, was not accepted favourably even by master Hahnemann who felt the need for indexing the ever enlarging materia medica in order to facilitate the work of finding out the simillimum, in acute as well as in chronic diseases. As far back as in 1832, Dr C Boenninghausen, the Father of the Repertory, wrote, 'Every homoeopath has doubtlessly had a similar experience, finding the components of the disease picture under several comparable antipsoric remedies which correspond possibly to those of the patient, only one, however, could be most helpful, most of the others necessarily being indifferent to the desired result/

A repertory, Dr Boenninghausen felt, would be essential to those homoeopaths, who were particularly called upon to treat chronic patients. Even he himself felt the need for a repertory at the commencement of his medical career, and hence he thought of '*expedients*, which would make the choice of suitable remedies easier and more certain, by this means bringing the symptoms of each one, more clearly into view/ Although smaller works of this nature were available during his time, he felt a real need for a comprehensive indexing and therefore, compiled several useful repertories.

Homoeopathy is based on certain principles and philosophy, which warns us not to neglect even a minute expression, but at the same time take care of the whole organism. Thus, the task of a physician is not only restricted to the understanding of the phenomenon of a disease, but also goes one step further in resolving it with total care.

The task is, no doubt, tremendous and challenging, hence it calls for great alertness, devotion and taking extra interest on the part of the practitioner. Every case is a new piece of learning. Every case is unique and it needs unique handling and *individual treatment*. To achieve the afore mentioned objective, one has to be well versed with the knowledge of allied medical subjects to understand the process of disease, at the same time, one should have a clear understanding of the life and living

of *man*. Expressions indicating deviation from the original state of health to diseased state should be interpreted without any preconceived notions. Expressions at mental and physical levels denote a deviation of the inner man. To treat a diseased person, all the expressions that characterize the person as well as the disease, should be taken into consideration to find out the *simillimum*.

In our day to day practice, finding out total correspondence is not difficult if the repertories are properly used. Many physicians have a misunderstanding about the use of repertories and feel that it takes away their precious time. The blame has been nullified by the fact, that many stalwarts and even busy practitioners do make use of the repertories. Perhaps, it is either laziness or sheer ignorance regarding the importance of the repertory that keeps away a practitioner from harnessing such a useful aid. As Dr Kent aptly stated, "The cry for liberty has been a grievous error, as liberty is and has been most shamefully abused. It is liberty that has driven out of use, or limited the use of the repertory, that all the old healers so much consulted/

Boenninghausen published the first repertory based on the idea of our master Hahnemann. Since then, a number of repertories have come into existence from time to time, but only a few could prove useful to the demand of the profession. Kent's *Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* gave a new direction to the profession and Boger's arrival with publication of *Boger Boenninghausen's Characteristics and Repertory* enriched the subject. These two repertories along with Boenninghausen's *Therapeutic Pocket Book* are known as *basic repertories*. These three repertories have given useful directions and contribution to the philosophical and practical aspects of homoeopathic prescribing, and these formed the basis of future repertories.

Dr Barthel has produced a combined work of all repertories and materia medica in the form of *Synthetic Repertory*, which should be of much benefit to the practitioners. *Homoeopathic Medical Repertory* by Robin Murphy, *Complete Repertory*,

*Repertorium Universale* by Roger Van Zandvoort and *Synthesis* by Fredrick Schroyens are some among the recent repertories, which can help practitioners in selecting the simillimum.

According to Roberts, *utility of the repertory depends upon:*

1. Art of the physician in taking the case.
2. Knowledge of the repertory one attempts to use, viz:
  - a. It's philosophical background.
  - b. It's construction.
  - c. It's limitation.
  - d. It's adaptability.
3. Intelligent use of the resulting analysis.

Many seem to be satisfied with the knowledge of a few symptoms of a drug and try to match them with the disease picture only at a partial level. They never feel the need of a repertory because a few cases, which they have cured did not require repertorization. While conceding that a few cases were cured without repertorization, there is little doubt that the repertory is a sure and unfailing aid in successfully handling most of the cases. As Dr Kent said, "True, some men do some good work without the repertory, but they also do poor work, more than they would do with it." He further added, "A self made artisan may be a very useful man, though ignorant of the theory and most advanced methods used in this line of work, but he can never measure up to the man whom education and thoroughness of method has made an expert."

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 as well as to establish total correspondence between drugs and diseases. *Repertory bridges the gulf between materia medica on one hand and disease on the other.*

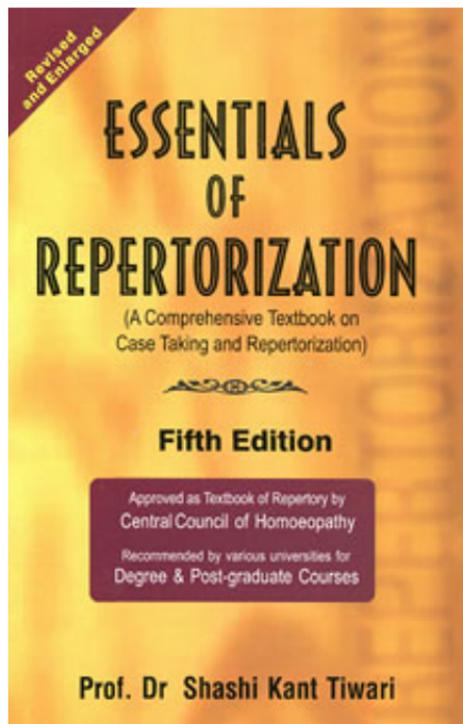
Repertories have often been set aside as time consuming, incomprehensible, vast and mechanical. Hence, in order to enlarge the effectiveness of homoeopathic treatment, it is necessary, in the first instance, to remove such misconceptions about the repertory, and then emphasize its greater use. Repertories have performed a long journey from simple indexing of the symptoms of the materia medica to the formation of separate large voluminous books and various mechanical aids. These days, the task of repertorization has become much easier and a practitioner has many choices in this regard. Introduction of the computer has made a great revolutionary change in the field of repertorization. Now an enthusiastic student and learner of homoeopathy cannot keep themselves away from this valuable subject which has a vast store of materials in the form of various kinds of *books, cards* and *softwares*.

Recent repertories have been enriched with all the required information needed by a prescriber in respect of symptoms and medicines. With the help of advanced and improved repertories, one can easily determine a simillimum in the vast ocean of homoeopathic materia medica.

## 1.2 REPERTORY

As per Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of English Language*, one of the most famous dictionaries in history, published in 1755, 'Repertory means a treasure or a book in which anything is to be found'. His dictionary was enormously popular and highly respected for its epic sense of scholarship during the time of Hahnemann.

*Thesaurus*- Farlex clipart collection, Princeton University, Farlex Inc, describes repertory as, 'A repertory is a storehouse where a stock of things is kept; the entire range of skills or aptitude or devices used in a particular field or occupation.'



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