

# Ramanlal P. Patel

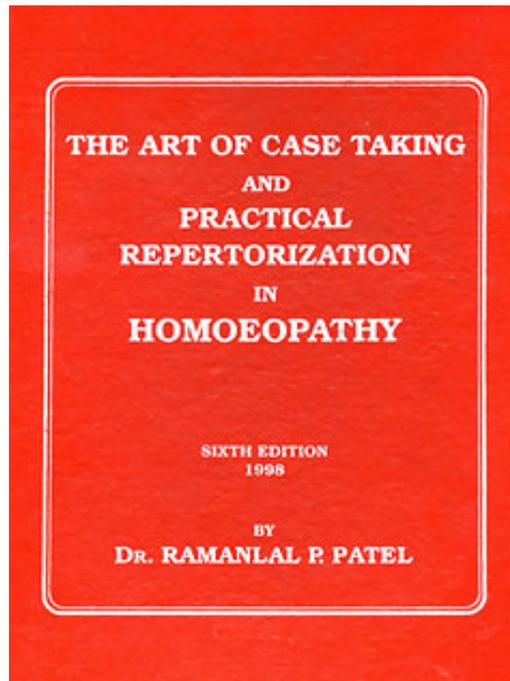
## The Art of Case Taking and Practical Repertorisation in Homoeopathy

Leseprobe

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von [Ramanlal P. Patel](#)

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## CHAPTER – 2

### ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF SYMPTOMS

Let me first confess that since the beginning of my study of Homoeopathy though I was fascinated in the study of symptoms, I was in confusion to understand various symptoms in homoeopathic literatures. To clear my doubts I met hundreds of Homoeopaths including my teachers and professors in many parts of the world.

One of the greatest difficulties encountered by the students and new comers to Homoeopathy is amplitude or largeness or abundance of symptomatology in the patient(s) as well as in the pathogenesis making up the *Materia Medica*.

I believe in "failures are the pillars of success". Since forty five years I am doing research and research to change my failures into successful results in homoeopathic practice. For years I am in search for clues to be a successful Homoeopath but in vain. How can I master the science and art of Homoeopathy which has no limits? Now I feel that even with very hard work and working for many hours, until 1 a.m. everyday, one life on this earth is not sufficient to master Homoeopathy.

In my earlier practice (and even sometimes now), I found that the stumbling block is Analysis and Evaluation of symptoms after careful case taking. Always some misconception, misinterpretation and misunderstanding of symptoms have come in our ways for the success. Since Dr. Hahnemann's time to present time, almost all authors differ on analysis and evaluation of symptoms and a real confusion is there for students and practitioners to apply artful Homoeopathy. Even Dr. Kent changed his mind several times for analysis and evaluation. You can refer his articles in serial form for the study of Repertory. Finally he came to Dr. Hahnemann's views, in the article; "How to use the Repertory(6, p. 9) ?", though contradicting at the same time at the other place by stating; "Get the strong, strange, peculiar symptoms and then see to it that there are no generals in the case that oppose or contradict (3, p. 53)." And again; "The great trouble with the keynotes is that they are so often misused. Keynotes are often valuable characteristic symptoms, but if these keynotes are taken as final and the generals do not confirm the failures will come(3, p. 54)." For the above statements the solution is easy if we study carefully para 153 and 154 in the *Organon of Medicine*.

During my studies in Calcutta, London, Glasgow, Stuttgart and in U.S.A. my confusion in understanding Analysis and Evaluation of symptoms was not cleared and I had to ask several questions to my professors and in this process they got confused themselves. One of the lecturers even asked me not to discuss or talk to him of Analysis and Evaluation of symptoms as he was getting confused in the selection of medicines for his patients. He was more of a pathological prescriber. Whenever I tried to clarify my doubts, he would say; "Please doctor, you know better. Do not confuse me more. You are right." I met him in Europe after many years in a congress and was very happy to discuss because he told me that he studied all aspects of symptoms and had made many changes in his practice. Learnt it by the hard way.

There are several books and articles, may be thousand and more from Dr. Hahnemann's time to the present time on the selection of symptoms and their utility, out of many symptoms of the patient for the final selection of the remedy. Almost all of us follow in the order; Dr. Hahnemann, Dr. Kent, Dr. Boenninghausen, Dr. Boger, Dr. Hering, Dr. Tyler, Drs. Aliens. Dr. Kent has stressed or given more importance to mental symptoms. Dr. Boenninghausen has given more importance to totality of symptoms with location, sensation, modalities and concomitant. He proceeded on the hypothesis that this totality was not only the sum-total of the symptoms but was in itself one grand symptom, the symptom of the patient. Dr. Boger, C.M. has stressed more on modalities, and among modalities, time modality is considered first. Dr. Tyler followed Kent's views. She gave lecture on Kent's Repertory to American Homoeopaths in the very presence of Dr. Kent. Dr. Kent commented; "I am really surprised that Dr. Tyler has gone over the work so completely and that it appears she knows so much of what there is in it. I was surprised that anyone aside from the author had attempted to put together all there is in the book(1)." Dr. Tyler learnt to use Kent's Repertory from Sir Dr. John Weir who was a direct student of Dr. Kent. I also learnt it from Sir Dr. John Weir as a student in 1951-52 at London. Dr. Burnett based his prescriptions on local organ and tissue affinities. Dr. S.R.Phatak gave first importance to cause. Dr. Hughes used to teach and prescribe on pathological or diagnostic symptoms.

Hahnemann had his difficulties and spent years and wrote and re-wrote *Organon of Medicine*, the *Chronic Diseases*; their peculiar nature and several other articles. He accepted his failures but we do not (26, Foot-note para. 80). My purpose and mission (which is not completed) for this work is to change our failures into successes if life is generous enough with me to follow this work, by understanding properly the subject matter in para 153 and in other paragraphs which follow in the *Organon of Medicine*, when Dr. Hahnemann writes;

"In this search for a homoeopathic specific remedy, that is to say, in this comparison of the collective symptoms of the natural disease with the list of symptoms of known medicines, in order to find among these an artificial morbid agent corresponding by similarity to the disease to be cured, the *more striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar* (characteristic) signs and symptoms of the case of disease are chiefly and most solely to be kept in view; for it is *more particularly these that very similar ones in the list of symptoms of the selected medicine must correspond to*, in order to constitute it the most suitable for effecting the cure. The more general and undefined symptoms: loss of appetite, headache, debility, restless sleep, discomfort, and so forth, demand but little attention when of that vague and indefinite character, if they cannot be more accurately described, as symptoms of such a general nature are observed in almost every disease and from almost every drug (26, p. 218)." In this paragraph every word is important.

- 1) Search.
- 2) Homoeopathic specific remedy.
- 3) Comparison of the collective symptoms.
- 4) Natural disease.
- 5) List of symptoms of known medicines.
- 6) Artificial morbid agent.
- 7) Similarity.
- 8) Disease to be cured.
- 9) The *more striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar* (characteristic) signs and symptoms.
- 10) Signs and symptoms.
- 11) Chiefly.
- 12) Most solely to be kept in view.
- 13) For it is *more particularly* THESE that very SIMILAR one in the LIST OF SYMPTOMS of the SELECTED MEDICINE must CORRESPOND to.
- 14) Constitute.

- 15) Most suitable.
- 16) Cure.
- 17) General and undefined symptoms, - demand a little attention.
- 18) If, they cannot be more *accurately described*.
- 19) Symptoms of such a nature are observed in *almost every disease* and
- 20) from *almost every drug*. And again, in paragraph 154, he writes;

"If the antitype constructed from the list of symptoms of the most suitable medicine contain those peculiar, uncommon, singular and distinguishing (characteristic) symptoms, which are to be met in the disease to be cured in the greatest number and in the greatest similarity, *this* medicine is the most appropriate homoeopathic specific remedy for *this* morbid state; the disease, if it be not one of very long standing, will generally be removed and extinguished by the first dose of it, without any considerable disturbance (26, p. 218)." In this paragraph also each and every word reminds you the importance of characteristic.

- 21) Antitype.
- 22) Disease to be cured.
- 23) Greatest number.
- 24) Greatest similarity.
- 25) THIS medicine.
- 26) Most appropriate homoeopathic specific remedy.
- 27) Specific remedy.
- 28) THIS morbid state.
- 29) Disease, longstanding, *if not*.
- 30) First dose.
- 31) Without any considerable disturbance.

What is Antitype ? Here antitype means, the symptoms which an anti-dote type of the medicine has to be found in each case (diseased condition); the symptoms that are antitype and for which antitype medicine(s) is to be chosen in each case are; peculiar, uncommon, singular and distinguishing (characteristic) symptoms. And these should be "in the greatest number and in the greatest similarity" in order of importance i.e; in Mental Generals - will, emotion, intellect, memory, Physical Generals and then Particu-

lars. The antitype medicines are those which are capable of anti-doting or nullifying these symptoms. This is only possible if these; "*peculiar, uncommon, singular and distinguishing* (characteristic)" symptoms are in a patient as well as in the medicine. The cure will be certain, rapid, gentle and probably permanent if the miasmatic condition is covered wholly, and that cure will be *shortest, most reliable, and most harmless*, according to Dr.Hahnemann.

For each item and the word, listed above you can talk for hours and days ! I have done it for 9 (nine) days and took nearly 52 hours of talking to students. Is it a record to speak on these two paragraphs? It means 52 lectures in a year of the present prescribed syllabus of degree or diploma course(350 hours for whole course of 5 years). A few lectures of these are recorded on audio cassettes.

So, for the selection of medicine these, "*striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar* (characteristic) signs and symptoms of the case of disease are chiefly and most solely to be kept in view." Many Homoeopathic Physicians have overlooked and not understood practical utility of these instructions and so have many failures in their day to day practice.

Hahnemann's "*striking, singular, extraordinary, and peculiar symptoms*" are basic miasmatic ones, always: hence the wonderful curative effects produced by remedies selected upon such symptoms; they are capable of reaching down deep enough to extinguish or what is in better term, to separate their miasmatic bond from the life force (36, p. 101)."

"The needs of the patient are seen in the signs and symptoms (Kent)", but a thorough knowledge of these signs and symptoms is only possible from the knowledge of the chronic miasms (36, p. 111).

"Every disease has its beginning, which precede the stage at which so-called pathological changes are in evidence. Homoeopathy meets these conditions in their symptomatology with the remedy corresponding to it in its pathogenesis, and can thus prevent the disease going on to pathological manifestations, or cure the patient of both the symptomatology and pathology where cure is at all possible (37, p. 1)."

If cure is to be established in chronic diseases we have to observe Hering's; "Law of Direction of Symptoms: from within out, from above downwards, and in reverse order of their appearance (38, p. 273)." And, to achieve this we have to understand, perceive and follow the human sickness, in the order of impor-

tance of symptoms as follows according to Dr Kent;

From centre to circumference. From head to feet. From within out. From highest to lowest. From the vital centres to the periphery (38, p. 352).

And, to be successful Homoeopathist in prescribing for chronic as well as in acute diseases we have to find in each level of importance, *striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar* (characteristic) signs and symptoms.

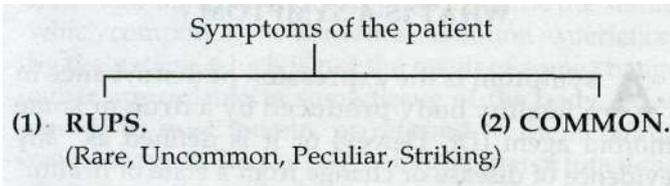
The level of importance in order of these symptoms (RUPS) is as follows according to Dr. Kent;

" Of loves (will and affections [emotions] 15.),  
Of intelligence, Of memory, Of bodily sensations, Of causes and, Of circumstances,  
In greater and in lesser, In general and in particular,  
And these as they extend in to ultimate (38, p. 254)."

This is the order Hahnemann, Kent, Hering and others have followed for the successful prescribing and this order you will find in Dr. Kent's Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica. This is what Dr. Kent wrote about, "An artistic method of repertorization. (39, p. 1)."

For students, I have found after several interviews with many students of several colleges in India and other countries, it is very hard to digest. They are more confused and do not attempt to clarify their doubts. Only occasionally a question is asked about this in written or oral examination. I do hope that by the publication of this work one of the obstacles for not using Dr.Kent's Repertory by students and many homoeopathic practitioners is removed and they will take more interest in using the Repertory for successful prescribing. Hence for all purposes for the selection of medicine after proper case taking according to instruc-

tions given by Dr. Hahnemann in Organon of Medicine (Paras 84 to 104); we have to divide all symptoms of the patient;" *from innermost to outermost, from mind to skin, from Generals to Particulars*, (3, p. 50)"., into two divisions or groups:



(1) "The striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar (characteristic) signs and symptoms (26, Para. 153)" or "Rare, Uncommon, Peculiar and Striking or Strange symptoms (3, p. 50)."

N.B. I call these symptoms - RUPS (Beauties in Gujrati or Hindi); *Rare, Uncommon, Peculiar and Striking or Strange* symptoms; for easy recollection.

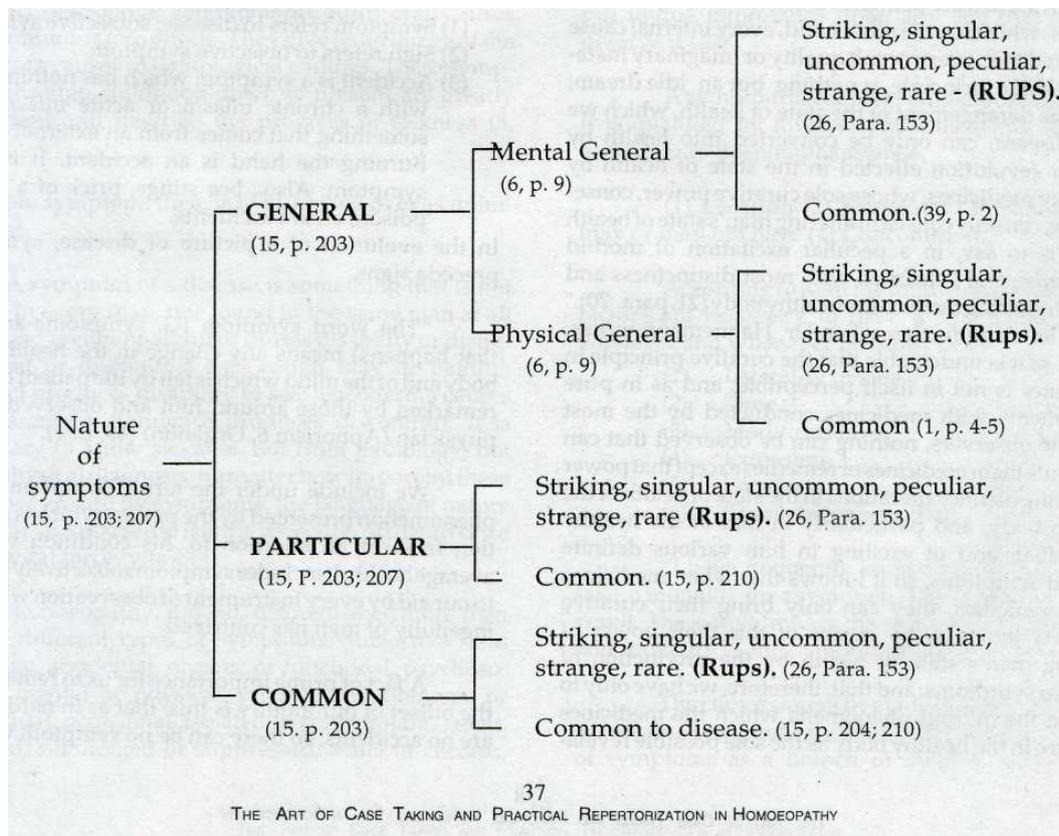
(2) The common symptoms(3, p. 50) or "the more general and undefined symptoms (26, Para. 153)." These *common* symptoms may be general or particular, mental or physical and must be considered

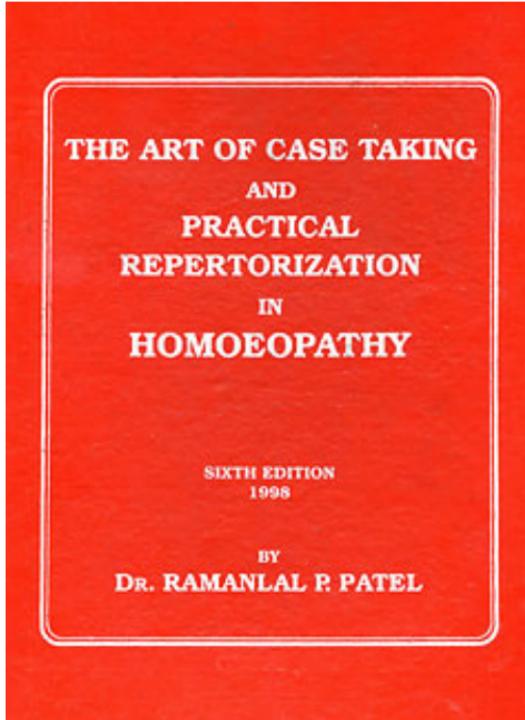
last in every case of Repertory study.

All these, " *striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar* (characteristic) signs and symptoms," in thousands you will find scattered in our books on Materia Medica and Repertory. I call these symptoms, " Prescribing symptoms". There is no one book though Dr. Hahnemann during his life time wrote in foot-note to para 153; "Dr.Von Boenninghausen by the publication of the characteristic symptoms of homoeopathic medicines and his Repertory has rendered a great service to Homoeopathy, as well as Dr. J.H.G. Jahr in his hand-book of principal symptoms."

First, I started to read all available books on Materia Medica and wanted to separate all symptoms; "*striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar* (characteristic)" and wanted to arrange in a way to locate easily. This I have done in my book - Analysis and Evaluation of Rubrics/Symptoms of Dr. Kent's Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by utilising the whole of the Kent's Repertory.

In the final analysis of the subject in a nutshell, I have arrived as follows :





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