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### BETTIAH

## “Repertory is meant for fools”

A few months ago, during an informal discussion a fresh homoeopathic graduate remarked with contempt that repertory is meant for fools and not for the intelligent doctors, to use. I did not try to convince him but felt sorry for him and his teachers and wondered about the fate of homoeopathy in the hands of such half taught prejudiced graduates.

Repertorisation is one of the many ways to reach at a similimum and perhaps the quickest and the surest way. My aim in this little article is not to teach the art of repertorisation (Because for this we have learned scholars like Dr. R. P. Patel and others, in India with us) but to emphasis and advocate the proper use of repertories in our day to day practice. It may appear ridiculous to some but I have no hesitation in declaring that I turn the pages of my repertory even for acute cases of cough, coryza and fever etc. in quest of a correct prescription. Intelligent use of the repertories imparts confidence and in grave emergencies guides us to the closest similimum. Let me illustrate a very recent case in point. My mother aet 69 yrs, happened to be the patient. My younger brother rang me up at around 11.30 P. M. on 18-3-92, telling that mother was very serious and was breathing her last. I rushed to my brother's place and found my aged mother in a real serious condition. Respiration was quick and difficult. She coughed in paroxysms every two minutes or so, but was unable to expectorate. She was in a subconscious state, pulse was rapid and thready. There was sticky and stringy phlegm adhering to the pharynx, mouth and tongue which had to be removed manually. Auscultation revealed wheezing rales across both lungs but the right one seemed more congested than the left one. The peculiarity

I noticed was that the inspiration was easy but the expiration was difficult with a wheezing almost whistling sound, which aggravated after every spell of coughing.

Consulting Kent's Repertory-RESPIRATION WHEEZING Expiring when: Lyc, Nat m., Sep, (P. 776) and RESPIRATION WHISTLING cough during: Lyc. (P. 777), Lycopodium came through. Upon the fact that the stethoscopic symptom (precisely the pathological state) was right side more prominent the choice for Lycopodium was further intensified. Lycopodium L.M. 1 one drop in twelve table spoonful of plain water was prescribed, a spoonful every two hours. Five minutes after the very first dose improvement was noticed. At 01.40 AM a second dose was administered and after about ten minutes she slept quietly and I left my brother's place at around 2 AM to retire to bed.

Well in the above case what one could have done without the aid of the repertory unless one were a materia medica wizzard with a computer like brain which is nearly impossible! The so called "Intelligent doctor" would have tried: Kali Bich, Antim tart, Baryta Carb, Nat mur, Opium and Sepia etc. with dubious and horryfying results.

Let us all therefore stick to our Repertories and materia medica sincerely and diligently. Then only we can do qualitative prescribing. Persistant and diligent study of the Repertories will teach us how to pick up the characteristic and peculiar symptoms in a case.

If Doctors Boenninghausen and Kent very often needed to consult their Repertories; how much more do we need to consult them now in our day to day practice is but self explanatory. ○

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