

Some Suggestions

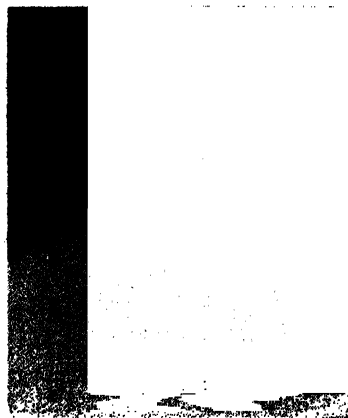
TO IMPROVE THE THIRD ORIGINAL AMERICAN EDITION OF KENT'S REPERTORY (ESPECIALLY THE SECTION ON MIND)

INTRODUCTION

Efforts are being made to bring out new editions of Kent's Repertory after eliminating the errors and mistakes appeared in the earlier editions. To bring out a cent percent correct and complete repertory may not be realised. But to an extent it is possible through a joint effort. Dr Narasimha Rao is giving certain corrections to the errors under the caption 'Mind' in the 3rd American edition of Kent's repertory. But his corrections are mainly based on the grammatical mistakes. Dr R P Patel is taking much efforts to bring out the fully corrected edition of the 6th American edition of Kent's repertory after his untiring researches during the last four decades. Let us pray that his efforts be successful and expect more researches in this field.

CHIEF EDITOR

- A) When I set up my practice in 1968, there was available only the sturdy 2nd Indian Edition of the 6th American Edition revised and edited by Dr. Clara Louis Kent, wife of Dr. J.T.Kent, with innumerable mistakes and a number of errors. Now! there are two improved editions : one by Dr. Pierre Schmidt of Geneva and Dr. Diwan Harish Chand of India and the other by Dr. Jost Kunjli of Switzerland.
- B) In Dr. Kent, we have a unique and happy blend of a versatile genius : a seeker of truth, an inspiring teacher, a keen observer, an able prover, a good analyst, a proficient Hahnemannian homoeopath, a chaste writer, a great author, a benefactor of mankind and a master of repertory-maker. In the words of Dr. Kent, his manuscript third and final edition of the '**Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica**' "was born with suffering in eyes and heads and bodies of both myself and my wife". Saying the following words, "Well it is about as perfect as I can make it up", Dr. Kent left his work for



DR. K. NARASIMHA RAO

posthumus publication. Consuming the precious blood of the beloved couple, this monumental work has become the most dependable companion to the practitioners all over the world ever since its genesis.

* NARENDRA HOMOEOPATHIC CLINIC, 17/148, REDDY STREET, CHIRALA - 523155 (A.P.)

C) In the preface to this third edition, Dr. Kent wrote "This work is offered to the profession as a general **Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica**. It has been built from all sources, and it is a **compilation** of all the useful symptoms recorded in the **fundamental works of Materia Medica**, as well as from the notes of our ablest practitioners.

"The **PLAN** of the Repertory is uniform through out, and it is **one** which admits expansion of each division, so that remedies can be added from time to time as they come into use or have been confirmed and verified. It has been attempted to proceed in every case from **GENERALS TO PARTICULARS**.

Cross references have been inserted wherever it was thought they would be needed but doubtless **more could profitably be added**. Many busy men will find groups of remedies under headings different from the one they would naturally look for. If a cross reference be made at the time it would always help to find that rubric in the future, and if all such cross references be sent to the author they will assist in making the later editions more complete.

"The physicians are requested to **send in verified and clinical symptoms** and to **call attention to any errors** which they may discover in the text. Only in this way can we expect to have a **complete and correct Repertory**".

D) In the days of Dr. Kent (1843-1919), there was in vogue the taxonomy of the living things (both animals and plants) and the '**Decimal classification**' of knowledge by subject from **Generals to particulars**, a revolutionary deviation from the traditional method of classifying books, by Melville Dewey (1841 to 1931) of America. It also admitted an indefinite expansion at every stage. They might have influenced Dr. Kent in his plan from Generals to Particulars.

His mellowed wisdom and tremendous experience got out of indefatigable industry, helped him in the herculian task of compiling the vast symptomatology drawn from heterogeneous sources (vide the Preface) and milling them through some acceptable modlings of rubrics to convey the disease phenomena to his readers tacitly. In selecting the 'Headings', his profound common sense guided him to prefer simplicity, clarity and utility to ostentation and ornaton, and chose the common words like **Bed, Blindness, Blood, Deafness, Home (nouns), Bad, Black, New (adjectives), Ask, Cut, Eat, Sit (verbs), Barking, Bellowing, Grawling,**

Weeping and Writing (gerunds) etc., to convey the unhealthy and freakish mental symptoms. with the same object in view, he carefully avoided using certain headings, wherever possible, like 'Hilarity' of Dr. Lippe and Dr. Knerr to 'Mirth' 'Faceteousness' of Dr. T.F.Allen to 'Jesting', though both the headings were familiar to his contemporary practitioners.

E) The general plan of constructing the rubrics or headings in the section on Mind is in consonance with the plan of constructing the rubrics in general. He formed main rubrics by keeping **Key-words** at the beginning. Under the main rubric, he arranged all the subrubrics, establishing their relationship with the help of prepositions, alphabetically. If one meditatively goes through the mental symptoms, one will not fail to find out certain guidelines set for himself by Dr. Kent for a uniform method of constructing the rubrics.

1. He preferred **NOUNS** for the Keywords of the main rubrics of all the primary emotions and the major mental symptoms.

Examples : Desire X Aversion; Anger X Pleasure; Fear (apprehension, anxiety, cowardice) X Boldness; Grief x Joy, Exhilaration.

Avarice, Lasciviousness, Envy, Jealousy, Sadness etc.

2. When there were no or few subrubric under the main rubric, he used nouns, adjectives, verbs, gerunds, past participles, etc., according to his convenience, as **Keywords** without causing any ambiguity in conveying the total meaning of the rubric.

Examples : Nouns :- Disobedience, Distance, Extravagance, Fanatism etc.

Adjectives :- Ardent, Malicious, New, Untruthful etc.,

Verbs :- Asks, Forsakes, Cut, Sit etc.,

Past Participles :- Disordered, Spoken etc.

Gerunds :- Cursing, Drinking, Inciting, Longing, etc.

3. He preferred 'action' for his rubrics than the subject and the object of that action and used 'Gerunds' for some of the larger rubrics (rubrics having more rubrics under it) to avoid embiguity in the total meaning of the rubric.

Examples : Biting, Jesting, Laughing, Striking, Weeping, etc.

4. When a need arises to clarify a keyword, he places the explanation :

(i) immediately after it or (ii) in a subrubric of the main rubric.

Examples : (i) **ABSORBED**, buried in thought.

GODLESS, want of religious feeling. (ii) REMORSE, REMORSE, repents quickly.

5. He never hesitated to sacrifice brevity for clarity and quoted the full sentence.

Examples : ABUSIVE, Scolds until the lips are blue and eyes stare and she falls down fainting.

STRIKING : Strikes head with her hands, strikes body, strikes others.

6. When a noun was used as a keyword for a rubric that has more subrubrics under it and if there was any ambiguity, he also added the adjectival form of the keyword.

Examples : (a) EXCITEMENT, excitable; STARTING, startled; Lasciviousness, lustful.

7. Sometimes he used more main rubrics to explain a certain mental condition.

Examples : (a) KILL, desire to: KILLED, desire to be. (b) TALK, TALKATIVE, TALKING, TALKS to himself. (c) CONTRADICT, disposition to CONTRADICTION, intolerant of. (d) SIT, SITS, SITTING, aversion to.

8. For brevity, he sometimes selected such keywords which convey both the meanings of plural Nouns and the Third Person Singular verbs.

Examples : (a) CARES, full of (noun CARES, trifles about (verb) (b) MISTAKES, in calculating (noun). MISTAKES, localities (verb). (c) TRIFLES, Seem important (noun). TRIFLES, with everything (verb).

9. He used prepositions to establish relationship between the main and the subrubrics.

Examples : FRIGHTENED, easily. Chill, during falling asleep, on menses, before.

FRIGHTENED, easily. nocturnal emissions, after. noise, at a. roused, when. touch, from.

10. Wherever there was an alternation between two mental status, he conveyed it by using two abstract nouns.

Examples : a). ANGER alternating with Cheerfulness. ANXIETY alternating with indifference. DELIRIUM alternating with Sopor. LAUGHING alternating with Groaning. TALK alternating with Quarrelsomeness.

F) To improve the Third Edition, I suggest the following measures :

i. To rectify the errors that crept into the text.

ii. To use minimum main rubrics to convey a mental condition.

iii. To add as many cross references as needed both to the main and the subrubrics to help the 'busy men'

IV. To incorporate all the 'verified' and 'clinical' symptoms and the remedies suggested by our 'ablest practitioners'.

V. To correct the mistakes found in carrying out the Printing.

VI. To improve the format of the book to help the practitioners for the years to come.

In spite of the great care taken by Kent in revising the three editions and the efforts of his distant students, Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Kunjili, a number of errors, discrepancies and deficiencies escaped their attention and have been continuing in their editions. They are to be set right.

' (REMEDIAL) MEASURES ELABORATED.

F) 1. RECTIFICATION OF ERRORS.

a) Where the keywords convey the meaning of a plural nouns and Third person singular verbs. (Read(a) along with the E-8)

Examples : ANSWERS :

Wrong : Answers aversion to

Right : Answering, aversion to OR Answer, aversion to.

Wrong : Answers, difficult.

Right : Answering, difficult OR Answer, difficult to

Solution : Change the Keyword to 'Answering' or 'Answer'.

b) Omission of Prepositions : (Read (b) along with E-9)

Examples: DULNESS HURRY

Wrong : Dullness, Children. Wrong: Hurry, drinking.

Right : Dullness, Children, in. Right: Hurry, drinking on

Wrong : Dullness, Old people.

Right : Dullness, Old People, of.

Solution : Place an appropriate preposition where is needed.

c) Alternating states : (Read (c) along

Examples :

Wrong : CHEERFUL (ADJECTIVE) with sadness.

Wrong : HOPEFUL (ADJECTIVE) with sadness.

Wrong : QUARREL (NOUN) with gaiety and

Solution

NESS

re-

Examples : (i) **CHEERFUL** : Wrong : Cheerful, alternating with mania

(ii) **IRRITABILITY** : Wrong : Irritability, Questioned, when

(iii) **PLAYFUL** : Wrong : Playful, alternating with melancholy

(iv) **SUICIDAL** : Wrong : Suicidal, drowning by

Solution : Place, **CHEERFULNESS**, **IRRITABLE**, **PLAY** and suicide by the side of the keywords.

- e) The addition of some words will give clear meaning (Read (e) along with E-5)

Examples : **SUICIDAL**

Deficient : (i) **Suicidal disposition**

Additions : **Suicide, disposition to commit.**

(ii) Violent, Vehement

Deficient : Violent, deeds, rage leading to

Additions : Violent, deeds of violence, rage leading to

- f) **Some discrepancies :** (i) **BLINDNESS**, pretended. **DEAFNESS**, pretended (ii) **FEIGNING**, Pregnancy.

Note : **PRETEND** and **FEIGN** both imply a profession or display of what is false, the more literary 'feign' sometimes suggesting an elaborately contrived situation (to 'pretended' not to hear, to 'feign' deafness (W.N.W.D))"

I do not know why Kent used **Blindness** and **Deafness** as Keywords though the action of **Pretention** is important as in the case of **feigning**.

(iii) **HUSBAND**, averse to (see **AVERSION**)

CHILDREN, averse to : No cross reference given to **AVERSION**.

- f) Both the husband and children are human being and they belong to a family. I do not know why Kent did not give a cross reference to **children**.

II. Clubbing of some main rubrics into a single main rubric (Read F) II along with E-7).

Examples : a) **KILL** : (i) Existing Main Rubrics : **KILL**, desire to. **KILLED**, desire to be.

(ii) Proposed Main Rubric : **KILL**, desire to, desire to be killed to

(iii) Analogy from Kent : **READING**, averse to desire to be read to

b) **SIT** : (i) Existing Main Rubrics : **SIT**, inclination to **SITTING**, aversion to

(ii) Proposed Main Rubrics : **SITTING**, aversion to inclination to

(iii) Analogy from Kent : **WRITING**, averse to, desire for.

c) **TALK** : (i) Existing main Rubrics : **TALK**, desire to **TALKATIVE** (See **Loquacity**) **TALKING**, complaints. agg. **TALKS**, to himself.

(ii) Proposed main Rubrics : **TALKING**, Desire to (See also **Loquacity**), complaints agg., dead people with, himself to, of nothig but murder, fire.

(iii) Analogy from Kent : **THINKING**, averse to, Complaints agg. etc.,

F) III. In the section on Mind of the 3rd edition of Kent's Repertory, there are nearly 377 main rubrics, having remedies mentioned against them, and 152 main cross references, besides the many cross references mentioned against the subrubrics. Dr. Kent did not follow the two-way cross reference method throughly. We must make up the deficiency. Also he did not differentiate between a synonym and a partly synonym while using the sign 'SEE' for giving cross references. The ambiguity will be cleared if the 'SEE' is used for synonyms and 'SEE ALSO' is used for a partly synonyms. Take for e.g. 'ABANDONED' (See **FORSAKEN**). In this case, the remedies are mentioned against the word 'Forsaken' and not against the word 'Abandoned'. Take another e.g. 'ANGER, Irascibility (see irritability, Quarrelsome),. Here remedies are mentioned both against 'Anger' and the words 'IRRITABILITY' and 'QUARRELSOME' The cross reference here is meant for us to consult **irritability** and **Quarrelsome** for further study. These Two rubrics have their own group of remedies the mental section is a fertile field for the practitioners to suggest a good number of cross references. Some words, whether they are in the main or in the subrubrics, like **Critical**, **Lustful**, **Pretended**, **Fine Work**, **Nervousness** and **Cunning** are not given cross reference nowhere in the section. 'TRIFLES' is mentioned 14 times at different places. One cannot have a full view, unless it is given two-way cross references completely.

IV. Dr. C.M. Boger, Dr. George Vithoulkas and Lynda Jhonson published their 'Additions to Kent's Repertory'. Here and there some of our reputed practitioners also suggested some additions. All the additions may be taken in with caution.

V. If the mistakes are found in the printing of the text, they may be corrected.

VI. With a view to helping a large number of practitioners, the publishers, especially in India, have been bringing out somewhat cheap editions. As the Repertory has become the unfailing friend of the

practitioners through the globe, every care must be taken for a good format. Really a good format will add flavour to the taste of the matter.

- G) Some of our ablest practitioners partly fulfilled the wishes of Dr. Kent. Dr. Pierre Schmidt and Dr. D.H. Chand revised the edition by correcting the mistakes and augmenting it by some new symptoms and new remedies, following the pagination of Dr. Kent. Dr. Jost Kunjli revised the edition by correcting and augmenting it, and not by adhering to the pagination of Dr. Kent. Dr. Barthel, in one way or other, fulfilled the wishes of Dr. Kent to a larger extent, by revising the mental and the physical generals only. However, much is left to be done on the lines advocated by Dr. Kent.
- H) Let us not be blind to the fact that Dr. Kent's Repertory has stood the test of the time, not because of its becoming an index to 591 remedies and of its 1423 pages of information, but mainly because of its basic PLAN with all its MODIFICATIONS which give indefinite scope for expansion to accommodate the ever-growing symptoms and remedies in number.

LET US IMPROVE THE THIRD EDITION TO THE WISHES OF OUR MASTER KENT.

BOOKS REFERRED :

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