

Evolution of Homoeopathic Repertories and Repertorisation

by Jugal Kishore

Kishore Cards Publications, 86 Golf Links, New Delhi 110003, India.
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Sitting in Dr. Jugal Kishore's busy clinic in New Delhi is a unique experience. He presides, a small benign gentle and distinguished man in a large office chair in one corner. Around him in alcoves of the room are his assistants absorbed in taking cases. They come forward with the notes and patient, and present the case to Dr. Kishore. He listens carefully, maybe asks a few questions, perhaps retakes the whole case. He then takes a photograph of the patient and also of the local symptoms for before and after shots to verify the cure. He usually suggests some rubrics to the assistant or himself goes over to a special filing case and deftly pulls out a number of punched cards which he holds up to the light. This is the pre-computer technology of the famous Kishore Cards repertory system, of which he is of course a nimble master. Holding them up to the light reveals the remedy as a hole, which coincides in each card. Holistic homoeopathy? Prescription to the compounder and next please! He sees patients at a prodigious pace.

Part of the contents of this book formed part of the introductory volume to the first edition of the cards, long out of print and now available in a third edition, here revised and expanded so that this really is a new publication. The first chapter of 123 pages deals with the titled Evolution of Homoeopathic Repertories, and the next 50 pages with case taking. Then there are 140 pages of examples of worked out cases using a variety of methods, and then some conclusions with more repertory exercises. There is not another book like this one, it is not essential to have the card repertory to use it. But having not only a Kent but some other older and newer repertories and a computer will help, as the book really comes alive if the reader tries

out the cases as a learning experience. If you do buy the cards they come in 4 hand crafted wooden cases; readers are welcome to inspect my set by appointment.

Kishore has our literature at his fingertips and cites not only his own cases but those of many colleagues. P. Sankaran, father of the current world favourite seminar teacher, Rajan Sankaran found some small rubrics to be gold when they were needed, such as palpitation in the bath, urinary retention after hysteria, and nose itching while eating. He cites the well known peculiar symptoms, nose running during stool, to which I add stool runs while eating! These all illustrate the author's message that the repertory is a window to the materia medica and memory alone is not sufficient.

There are the inevitable errors which creep into most Indian publications, for example the names Candegabe and Santee are misspelt, there are some unfinished sentences, and many odd gaps between words. Neatby is dated 50 years late. But the binding is sound and these errors should not detract from the value of this amazing collection. There are also omissions based partially on language barriers, such as Brousallian's French Kent card repertory and Flury's Swiss card repertory. But there are also mentions of some of my favourites: for example Jiminez' bilingual English/Spanish card repertory from Costa Rica and Mexico acquired a US patent in 1925! Farley's Spindle Repertory is bound with a large screw at the base so that the cards fan open. Other card repertories like Field and Boger are explained. Kishore is up to date demonstrating his methods by comparing the same cases worked out in Boenninghausen, Kent, the Kishore cards, and MacRepertory, with illustrative charts.

We are taken through the history and development of repertory in great detail. Kishore really understands the minds of such scholars as Boenninghausen and explains his methods in a practical way, as he does for TF Allen, Gentry, Knerr and more. There are historical lists

which date complete and partial or 'regional' repertories. Many of these repertories are still available as inexpensive reprints directly from India.

The chapter on case taking is fascinating. Kishore relates the case of a bashful 14 year old who was cured of enuresis. He had made his mother promise not to tell the physician and blamed her for revealing his secret when he awoke in a dry bed! He would not return to see the homoeopath again. Here is real solid guidance on sensitive interrogation, with illustrations and small cases. This chapter would have made a small book by itself and illustrates that whether with a computer or a book, repertory analysis of a case will produce no results if the case is not well taken.

There are few books which teach repertorisation, Bidwell's small book *How to use the Repertory* is an introduction to Kent. Dhawale explains at length how to differentiate the methods of Kent and Boenninghausen but is long out of print. Ahmed Currim has produced a recent introduction to Kent, worthy but laborious and almost obsessional in detail by the side of Kishore's relaxed narrative. Bhanu Desai has written a good introduction to Boenninghausen.

Here we have a book that is written in an easy style with many fascinating digressions and anecdotes to catch the imagination of the novice and experienced practitioner alike. The beauty of this book is in the explanations which place these repertories into contexts of history, and methodology so the discerning reader may see how one repertoriser developed his work from that of a predecessor, and enable the reader to work out the case exercises to learn how to use our indispensable reference tools. Kishore is sharing his lifetime of clinical experience in this book. It should be on every reading list.

Reviewed by Francis Treuherz for the *British Homoeopathic Journal*

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