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An evaluative study of remedies related to mind from mineral kingdom from boenninghausen's therapeutic pocket book

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Abstract

The Elements by Jan Scholten published by Homoeopathic Medical Publishers in January 1996.

In the foreword Dr. Debats suggests the readers to take up the following exercise "Take a large sheet of paper and draw a grid of 18 vertical columns and 7 horizontal lines and then proceed to fill in the elements in the usual way, starting with Hydrogen, Helium, Lithium etc according to the Periodic Table.

Next take the most extensive Materia Medica you can find and make a note of the most important Rubrics of each Element, in it's appropriate compartment.

When you have done that, stand back and take a look. You will notice that most of the spaces are empty, while others are filled up with Polycrest Remedies."

This thought-provoking statement compelled to evaluate the remedies from one of the most authentic source repertory, Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book. (B.T.P.B).

Keywords: Mineral kingdom, boenninghausen, mind, J.Scholten

1. Introduction

As Jan Scholten has Classified his Mineral Remedies considering Group analysis on the basis of Mental symptoms, it was necessary to study the Mental Symptoms or Rubrics as they are called in the language of Repertory. While comparing and describing the new remedies, Scholten lays emphasis on mind picture. According to him Group analysis give the best picture of mind. The reason he gives is that the mind picture is always present in one form or another in a remedy, but the physical complaints may vary. And it claimed that Scholten offers a fascinating way to view our Materia Medica.

It has been claimed that one of the sources to study our Materia Medica was from repertory. The repertory is based on Provings of the remedies, their clinical verifications and confirmations and given with the gradations. While Materia Medica is, collection of data from the proving and the most characteristic and frequently occurred symptoms are mentioned as Red Line Symptoms under the remedy.

As Boenninghausen's Repertory being the most authentic repertory and approved by none other than Dr. Samuel Hahnemann was taken for study of remedies from the Mineral Kingdom, from the Mental Rubrics of Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book.

As the Mental Rubrics are scattered in the Sections of Mind, Intellect, Aggravations and Ameliorations, due to it's unique arrangement owing to the Philosophical background of his repertory.

I quote Boenninghausen's own words because unless we understand the philosophical background of Boenninghausen's repertory, we cannot really appreciated his this work, i.e. BTPB. He has said:

"The defects of the repertories hitherto published i.e. chiefly in my opinion, in their being limited to the material given in the Materia Medica Pura, joined to the carefully tested cases in practice. But these have never been combined so as to furnish the means of judging the value of each symptoms, of completing those which were in completed and of filling the numerous vacancies constantly met with by every practitioner."

Boenninghausen in his short span of life as a physician, discovered so many things which we have confirmed time and again during the history of our profession in the treatment of chronic and other diseases. Boenninghausen's legal mind seized upon several salient features in the cumbersome Provings, by means of which he was able to device and perfect a repertory that was much more convenient, much elaborate & at the same time compact, comprehensive and easy to use.

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In his original preface to the book Boenninghausen says that "In regard to the first section Mind And Intellect, it must be especially observed that our Materia Medica Pura contains nowhere more secondary symptoms than under The Mind and Disposition, and on the other hand most beginners in homoeopathy are liable to overlook this part of the picture of disease, or to make mistakes.

Therefore, I have considered it wise to give here only what is essential and prominent (mental symptoms) under as few rubrics as possible, in order to facilitate reference."

All the recent work on Mineral Kingdom, which is based on mental symptoms warn that they are not to be used by beginners but to be used by only those who have understood the Mineral Remedies as what they had offered was a) Observational and b) Deducted. Example: Observations of groups were studied collectively like "The Ferrum", "The Natrum", "The Carbonicums", "The Muriaticums" etc and common features are collected and considered. A physician must be well read and experienced to notice or infer these traits and combine them to prescribe on the basis of Synthesis. That is, if the traits of "Natum Group" was found and some symptoms pointing to "Sulphuricum Group" then Natrum Sulph can be prescribed on this basis of Synthesis.

2. Material and Methods

With the aid of "Hompath" software, only the Mineral remedies were selected from the chapter of "Mind" and "Intellect" from The Boenninghausen's Therapeutic. Pocket Book and the data of the mineral remedies covering these two chapters was recorded and considered for the study.

3. Result and discussion

Boenninghausen was criticized for paying too little respect for the mental symptoms where as Hahnemann had laid the greatest emphasis on the mental symptoms. Of course Boenninghausen was conscious of the value of mental symptoms, but he had given his own reasons for not giving in minute details the particularization of mental symptoms. He was of the opinion that, in routine practice it is difficult to extract reliable mentals. Very often, the psychic state has to be ignored as it is only a mask for the true mental symptoms which are exhibited through somatic symptoms. That meant that he would only consider the most reliable symptoms even while considering mental symptoms. There also, he made broad Generalizations. So his Repertory combined both the concepts and produced something which was elastic enough to suit the combinations, to work on the philosophical base and yet serve faithfully as an index to the Materia Medica, through peculiar, rare and strange symptoms. We can use it for symptom-analysis and synthesis from the recorded symptoms of the case and search for the indicated remedy on definite principles.

The recent Materia Medica though claiming to be the Materia Medica of The Periodic Table are the fusion or synthesis of the common symptoms found in particular group of elements, minerals or salts. One has to be very confident in using with his own knowledge of these remedies than these kind of Materia Medica. Also the Provings, which are claimed to be made are on very small provers may be 25 to 30 of them, which is not sufficient to make conclusions on such massive scale for application. Though the earlier remedies are few in number, they are well proved. When studied from an standard authentic

Repertory, will be able to not only give Qualitative data but also quantitative information of extensive proving, re-proving, clinical verification of the remedy for that symptom. This work has revealed that out of 342 Remedies given in the Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket book, 55 Remedies from Mineral Kingdom showed mental expressions. Out of 126 Remedies originally given by Boenninghausen, Allen had dropped four Remedies and added 220.

The Remedies that Allen added are known to appear in comparatively few Rubrics and careful observation will convince the student that they appear much more frequently in Locational Rubrics or those dealing with functional symptoms, than in the subjective or modifying symptoms. It is in this particular part that we are convinced that Allen did not consider his work complete, but that the edition went to press with the idea of giving it to homoeopathic profession in the state it had reached at that time, rather than as a perfect edition.

This work will be useful for quick reference and for evaluative differentiation of the remedies after repertorisation, for choosing the most similar Remedy.

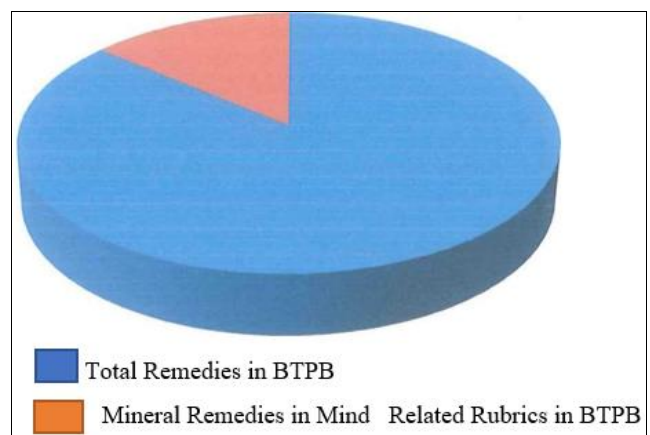


Fig 1.

4. Conclusion

This work has revealed that out of 342 Remedies given in the Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket book, 55 Remedies from Mineral Kingdom showed mental expressions. Out of 126 Remedies originally given by Boenninghausen, Allen had dropped four Remedies and added 220.

Even the rare Remedies like Bar.ac, Calc.iod, Calc.fl, Carb. Ac, Kali.nit, Ox.ac, Hyd.ac are given. Though these remedies were not well proven then, they were included in the Mind related rubrics.

It goes without saying that until they were proved and verified they would have NOT been found with respective gradation in Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book.

A beginner in Homoeopathy should rely on the authentic and well proven sources for better results rather than some hit and try synthetic prescriptions.

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