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A short study on a concise repertory of homoeopathic medicines (Phatak repertory)

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Abstract

“Phatak repertory” is one of the simplest and handy repertory book arranged in alphabetical order used for reference. It is an ideal repertory for the beginners and for those who tends to believe in artistic prescribing. The repertory is based primarily on the “Boger’s synoptic key” and functions on the same philosophy.

Keywords: Yucatec maya, traditional medicine, plant use, herbalist

Introduction

‘A Concise Repertory of Homoeopathic Medicines’ by Dr. S.R Phatak is an alphabetically organized repertory based on the concepts of pioneer of homoeopathy i.e. ‘Boger’ and ‘Boeninghausen’. It is a repertory which avails us by reducing the troubles of the prescribing as there are few remedies against each rubric or sub-rubrics, only those remedies included which are frequently verified by the author in their own clinical practice. The alphabetical arrangement of the rubrics is the most important feature of the repertory, which makes it the easiest way to reach our desired destination. It’s a repertory authored by an Indian writer, so many rubrics and remedies are included which are well suited for Indian scenario. Thus, one can identify with the picture presented by the patient in a more refined manner. In this regard inclusion of Indian food items is unique feature of the repertory. In ‘Ramayana’, there is a mythological tale about lady Shabari, in which each and every berry was tasted by her before offering the same to Lord Ram by the intention of getting assurance that each and every berry presented to lord Ram must be sweet in taste. Similar efforts were done by Dr Phatak for us in the form of testing, confirming and verifying each and every rubric and remedy before including it in his repertory. Each inclusion has either come from his own case experiences and clinical observation, or has been strongly justified by masters like Kent, Boger or Clark. Time-tested repertory has been proven.

Biography: Dr. Shankar Raghunath phatak was born on 6 September, 1896 at Pune. In 1924, he completed his graduation (MBBS) from Grant Medical College and started practicing as an allopathic but somehow was not satisfied by his response from modern medicine. There is an incidence where one of his patients wasn’t getting any relief from the modern medicine prescribed by him, his main symptom was ICY COLDNESS IN THE BACK. Once he was standing in front of paper vendor shop, where he saw piece of paper on which it was written for icy coldness between shoulders the medicine is *Ammonium Mur*, so he consulted his homoeopathic friend for the same and after knowing that this symptom is given in ‘BOERICKE Materia Medica’. He tried the same in the patient This was the turning point. Then he started studying and practicing homoeopathy.

Story of the Book: Author has discussed with the young doctors who came to him for guidance of homoeopathy about the utility and hurdles they face while going through various repertories for the aid of their prescription. From these discussions he came to the conclusion and this idea of repertory creeps into his mind, of preparing and arranging the repertory in one alphabetical order and should also be brief and handy one. Even though this idea uprooted in the author’s mind but he could not undertake this task due to his ill state of health.

Mr. S.L Kapadi one of author's friend, knew about the idea and prepared the skeletal copy of this work with the help of author's rough drafts, notes of Marathi repertory. He asked the author to fill up the gaps, check and recheck the skeletal work done by Mr. Kapadi. This skeletal work was arranged properly by the author and he also done many additions to it. Dr. (Mrs.) Homai, was a merchant came to the author for guidance saw this handwritten work and typed it which was left over for nearly 10 years in the author's table. Author made several other additions to it, during this interval of time and Later he decided to publish his work. Mr. D.P Datay has been approached by the author's son, all the work was undertaken by him. Dr. (Mrs.) Homai once again typed the whole work on request and also gave valuable suggestions.

Editions

1st edition: Published in 1963 (sept.). Preface by Dr. S.R Phatak.

2nd edition: Published on 21 Oct 1972, Dr. P. Sankaran took the responsibility of publishing it. Preface by Dr. S.R Phatak.

3rd edition: Published in June 2000. (Revised & Enlarged) This edition was published by Dr. D.S Phatak, his son. New additions were marked by "+" mark in 3rd edition.

4th edition: Published by B Jain Publishers. Which is a revised and corrected by Dr. C Jeevandanam, another passionate lover of homoeopathy and he has immense admiration for Dr. Phatak.

Sources

- Synoptic Key
- Pocket Manual of Homeopathic Materia Medica with Indian medicine and Repertory
- Kent Repertory
- Therapeutic Pocket Book
- Clarkes Dictionary
- His Clinical observations and experience

Important Works of Dr. S.R Phatak

1. Repertory of Bio-chemic remedies – 1937
2. A Concise Repertory of Homoeopathic Medicines – 1963
3. Materia medica of Homoeopathic Medicines – 1977

Typography (Gradation of Remedies)

First Grade - CAPITAL

Second Grade – *Italics*

Third Grade – Roman

Index - In the index, there is no list of remedies, well known abbreviations or self-explanatory such as *Sul.* for *Sulphur*, *Sil.* For *Silica* etc., are not listed. However, a list of 114 drugs represents those drugs that is liable to be misunderstood with respect to abbreviations, eg- *Ambro*, for *Ambrosia*.

Book is divided into 3 Parts

- erPreface
- Abbreviations
- Repertory Proper

Preface

The rubrics included in the repertory were duly verified by

Dr. phatak. This repertory is not exhaustive as that of repertory like Kent's or Boenninghausen's repertory. Dr. Phatak relied up on the following authors, Dr. Kent, Dr. Boger and Dr. Clarke. All high grade or low grade remedy becomes equally important when it is connected with peculiar concomitant or with unusual condition or circumstances. The repertory is always intended to serve as a handy and useful book reference. Wherever necessary, cross references are also given.

- Abdomen inactive, see Paralysis
- Answers aversion to, see Aversion
- Barber's itch, see Itch

He says prescriber should not entirely depend upon particulars for finding out correct remedy, if he cannot find correct remedy according to the totality of symptoms, under the particular organ or sub part of it then he should consider general conditions and general modalities. The main idea of this repertory is to generate the local symptom. Totality of symptom does not mean numerical totality, but qualitative totality. DR. Phatak says every homoeopathic practitioner is aware that modalities and concomitants are the most important factors for finding out a correct remedy. He has gathered all such useful modalities from different standard repertories and included in his repertory. He says all modalities in a case are equally important.

Construction and Plan

The repertory has been printed in two columns on each page. From ABDOMEN, repertory begins – affection in general and ends with ZYGOMAE: see MALAR BONES. In this repertory, the heading Mentals, Generals, Modalities, Organs, and their subparts are alphabetically arranged. Each and every physiological and pathological condition such as appetite, aversion, desires, Nausea, vomiting, thirst, fever, pulse, etc. have been placed in alphabetical order. For all the general modalities, the word AGG and AMEL and modalities related to particular part is represented by small letters Agg or Amel.

For example – EYES Closing – AGG: LACH, THER

AMEL: Con, Gels, Sil;

Light – Agg: Bell

Amel: Am-m

CONVERSATION- AGG- Ign, Nat-mur, Sil

AMEL-Aeth, Eup.p

Rubric Construction

- Location / Sensation, Affection in General
- Side – Right, Left
- Alternating Sides
- Extensions
- Sub Location / Sub Sensation, Depending on rubric along with Aggravation, betterment and Concomitants are intermixed and given alphabetically.
- In Aversion Rubric both Mental and Food Aversions are given

Aversions - Answer to – Glo, Hyo, Nux v,

Education – Sul

Members of family-

Children own – Lyc, Phos, Plat

Husband – Glo, Nat c, Sep, Thuj

Wife – Ars, Nat s, Plat, Stap.

Cheese – Arg n, Chel

Coffee – CALC, NUX V

Tea – Pho

- Again we have separate rubric “Food and Drinks” under that all the Agg and Amel of food are given.

Food and Drinks

Coffee

Agg – IGN, NUX V

Amel – Arg-m, Cham, Colo, Ign

Onions

Agg – Bro, Lyc, Nux v, Puls, Thu

Amel - Cep

Indian Food Items are also included in this Repertory

Food and Drinks

Chilli (Green or Red) Agg: Phos Page no. 160

Condiments Spices Agg: Nux-v Page no.161

Sugarcane juice Agg: Ars Page no.163

Tamarind water Agg: Sele Page no.163

-He says sometimes one sided appearance of symptoms, or going upward or downward etc, when the symptoms are marked, gives a right clue in the selection of remedy

Direction of symptom

Ascending – IGN, LACH, PHOS, SEP, SIL

Diagonal – RHUS TOX

Downward – KALM

Side of symptom

Right- BELL, LYCO.

Left- ASAF, LACH, SUL

Thus the entire rubric related to the direction is found at one place in this repertory. Rubrics and remedies are reduced to minimum

For example

SPONDYLITIS - cervical; - Pho ac

-Dr. Phatak has added moon phases in his repertory

Agg – ALU, SIL.

New Moon Agg – Caus., Rhus-t, Sil

Full Moon Agg – Pho

-Holding the breath Amel is given only by Boenninghausen in this therapeutic book. In the case of ulcer of foot, this modality helped the author to cure.

BREATH – Holding

Amel – BELL

-From Boger synoptic key, some rubrics has been incorporated

Itching, Diabetes in - Mang

-Causation have to be looked under Aggravation either general or particular

Urticaria – Fish – Agg – Ars

-Periodicity

In general Agg – CHIN, NAT-M

At the same hour Agg – cedr, Chin-s, Saba

There is a special rubric in the repertory “ATTITUDE BIZARRE” (which means the patient’s disposition either mental or physical is strange and unusual.) Cina; Colo; Lyc; Mere; Nux-v; Plb

E.g. If a patient states that he feel better only when some strange posture is being assumed by him then this rubric is

nowhere given in standard repertories, though some sleep’s positions are given. Dr. Boger coined this rubric with various drugs under it.

Philosophical Background

Phatak Repertory is inspired by Bogers Philosophy. The Philosophy is same as of Boger Synoptic Key.

When to use Phatak Repertory

- Generals are available.
- Cases with pathological Generals.
- Cases were Causations marked.
- Cases with clear modalities.

Some Interesting and Important Rubrics

- Affection - Stifled – Sep
- Constipation – Obstinate – old people – Phyt
- Bottlefed – Alu, Nux, op
- Infants of – New born – Zin
- Dandruff - Scaly, profuse – Sanic
- Drugs abuse of

In general – NUX-V

Asprin – Arn, Carbo v, Lach, Mag p.

Hair (Condition) - Falling

Children, in – Nat m

Rapidly –Thal

Spots, in – Flu-ac, Nat-m, Phos

Gray, early –Ars, Lyc, Nat-m, Phos ac

- Menses - Painful- No relief in any position- Xanth.
- Financial Loss Agg – Arn, Ars, Aur.
- Sunset to Sunrise – Agg - Syp.
- Surprise - Agg – Gels
- Pleasant Agg – Cof
- Society (Social function)-Agg- Coca, Pall

Amel- Bov

- Black – dark (discharges, discoloration of skin)- Ars, Chin, Lach, Sec
- Nausea – concomitants, as a – Nat S
- Old Age Senility – AUR, BAR C, LACH, LYCO
- Adenoids – Calc, cal-iod, Calc–p, Merc
- Beriberi – Ars, Elat, Rhus.
- Blood Pressure –

High – Aur, Bar c, Bar m, Cof, Con, Crat, Glo, Iod, Lycopu, Stro, Ver. – v, Visc.

Low – Cact, Gel, Naj

- Leucoderma
- Meniere’s Disease
- Stomatitis
- Doltage – Aeth, ars (mind’weakness caused by old Age)
- Jaded Rakes – Agn (worn out immoral man)
- Mollitis Ossium (OSTEOMALACIA) – See bone curvature
- NIBBLING – See APPETITE – nibbling (to bite in bits)

Conclusion

Homoeopathic management is more effective by utilization of Phatak Repertory, physician should be knowledgeable and unprejudiced while selecting repertory, the rubrics and

the remedy. Whenever case comes with prominent generals and particulars one can use this repertory it will help in skilful approach toward indicated medicines. ²

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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