# Did Kent depend on his Repertory?



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### Introduction to the history of prescribing methods:

My interest in researching the history and development of prescribing methods was initiated by a phone call from a Homoeopath, practising for twelve years, requesting to book a "Repertory Session" with me. In fact, he meant he required a consultation for his ailments.

His past consultations with senior homoeopaths in the U.S comprised of a rubric search. I explained that I rarely look at the Repertory and he was intrigued enough to book the appointment.

This lead me to research whether the entire Western Homoeopathic World has deviated from what is called *true spirit of prescribing through understanding the qualities of the person to match with the qualities of the medicine* (the real match of the personality). Now a days, it is common to use software to input rubrics instead.

I then questioned myself, is my taught method from Calcutta University, Materia Medica dependant, totally different from that of the rest of the world? If so, how did that evolution happen?

I am passionate about Homoeopathic History and started doing research into the legacy and prescribing approach of the Old Masters of the USA, Europe and India.

My specific interest was in how these Masters used to reach the similimum?

I wanted to understand exactly whether they depended on Materia Medica knowledge or the entirely on the rubrics from the case and then the Repertory.

I teach that reliance on a qualitative totality will give a prescription with depth whereas a medicine found just using the repertory gives a mathematical addition, giving quantitative totality.

I teach and preach, that you cannot replace the judge in a court of law with a computer programme. It is not possible to enter the crimes and the programme defines the punishment; it's not feasible. In a court room there are many nuances and variables in each case, exactly similar to Homoeopathic Prescribing; the qualities of the individual should match with the qualities of the medicine.

At the outset, I like to comment that I'm not disregarding the utility of Repertory. It has its own place. Boenninghausen, Boger, Lippe, Kent and Hahnemann himself all used a Repertory, but did not depend on it. They didn't offer Repertory Sessions, they offered consultations. They had the command of Materia Medica. They had the 'remedy images' in their mind.

Dr. Kent used what was known as "finger technique" that is, he had 4 or 5 symptoms to look at and he kept his finger in those pages of the repertory to check or confirm those rubrics, that he considered were essential to the case. This was also the technique used by his direct pupil, Dr. B. K. Bose (former Principal of my Alma Matter).

Dr. Kent was a master of his craft because of his magnificent command of Materia Medica.

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 1912, Dr. Kent wrote to Margaret Tyler about her card repertory. His critique follows-

"........when I worked in a Clinic, I prescribed for twenty five to forty patients in one and half hours.......A doctor should know the generals, common and peculiars, so that he can use them quickly if he has a large business.......Prolonged and deep efforts only can make an artist in healing...............You are hunting for labour saving machines. These machines are useful in everything but art.......

They are as ruinous to the art of prescribing as they are to music......"

Ref. "The Faces of Homoeopathy" by Julian Winston; P. 201-202.

Dr. Kent is dismissive in his comments to Dr Tyler which makes it clear he did not use the repertory as his first tool.

#### **Prescribing Methodology of Old Masters:**

The Classical Heritage of American and European experts passed their knowledge to Calcutta's homoeopaths and this runs through generations. The so called "Calcutta Method" in fact is the original classical method of the great Masters.

Initially my Great Grandfather, Dr. Kalipada Banerjee, was Dr. Salzer's translator from Bengali to English in Calcutta.

Thereafter he became a the first generation Homoeopath in our family and assisted Dr. Salzer for a many years. He watched thousands of excellent homoeopathic cures by Dr. Salzer and developed his own clinical intuition and wisdom.

Around the age of fifty, Dr. Salzer decided to return to Vienna to get married, and before he left, he wanted to create a Homoeopathic Pharmacy shop as a gift to my Grandfather as a token of appreciation for his long loyal and dedicated service. My Grandfather wanted the name of the shop as Salzer & Co. however Dr. Salzer decided to name it after his friend and mentor, Charles Ringer and that's how one of the

foremost and leading Homoeopathic dispensing chemist started in Calcutta, in the name as "C. Ringer & Co." this was in a very prestigious location in Dalhousie Square (now BBD Bag), near the Writer's Building, Calcutta.

More details about our Homoeopathic heritage is in our website in the following link: <a href="http://www.homoeopathy-course.com/index.php/about-us/5-generations-of-homoeopathy">http://www.homoeopathy-course.com/index.php/about-us/5-generations-of-homoeopathy</a>

#### **Connections with the Traditional Calcutta Masters:**

I heard from my father, that Dr. Younan was also a contemporary of Dr. Salzer and had an extensive Clinical Practice in Calcutta.

Dr. B. K. Bose (1879-1977) was the direct student of Dr. Kent. http://homeoint.org/photo/b2/bosebk.htm

Dr. N.M. Choudhury (Author of the outstanding book: " A study on Materia Medica") and my Grandfather went to the USA together.

My Grandfather, B.K. Bose (later to be the Principal of the Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College, my Alma Matter) N.M. Choudhury, (Author of the outstanding book: "A study on Materia Medica") P.C Majumder (quoted by Dr. J. H Clarke in various chapters of his "Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica" e.g. in Calc Ars Chapter); all trained in the USA and brought the unique classical gold-old tradition, a glorious legacy back to Calcutta.

#### That legacy includes:

- (a) Single Medicine at a time;
- (b) WWW (Wait, Watch with Wisdom), let the single dose act for months;
- (c) Dependence on Materia Medica; as that will give you the Qualitative Totality. The qualities of the person should match with the qualities of the medicine.

Even homoeopaths of recent times, like George Vithoulkas (Ref. The Faces of Homoeopathy, by Julian Winston, P. 358); Dr. P. Sankaran, Dr. Jugol Kishore, Dr. S. Koppikar; all travelled to Calcutta for their homoeopathic training, because of their yearning to learn the legacy of the Classical heritage of Homoeopathy and to be taught by those Calcutta Classical Prescribers who had the magnificent grasp and command of Materia Medica.

When Dr. N.M. Choudhury and my grandfather, Dr. Kishori Mohon Banerjee returned from the USA, they founded a College and Homoeopathic Hospital in 1924, with 50 inpatient beds. This was known as Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital.

To pay his deepest respects my Grandfather named the college after his "Guru" (mentor) Dr. J. H. Allen who taught him in the US. J. H. Allen authored "Psora, Pseudo-psora". Dr. Allen dedicated the second volume of his "Sycosis volume" book to "his Indian Students".

Our Allen College in England, is a continuation of that heritage and continues with the respect and admiration to our Grandfather's Guru, Dr. John Henry Allen.

My son, Saptarshi (the 5th generation homoeopath of perhaps the longest serving homoeopathic family in the world), followed me and attended The Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, founded in 1881, which is a fully recognised Government College and possibly the oldest, uninterrupted Homoeopathic Institution in the world.

My Alma Mater: <a href="http://www.chmch.in.net/">http://www.chmch.in.net/</a>//www.chmch.in.net/about.html

#### <u>Materia Medica knowledge is considered the standard Modus</u> Operandi for Calcutta's Prescribing:

I heard from my Uncle (late Dr. N.K. Banerjee), and also from my great mentor and my "Guru", Dr. S.K. Dubey, a favourite and beloved pupil of Dr. B. K. Bose, that Kent's Lectures on Materia Medica were extemporaneous lectures. He delivered the lectures from memory, without any notes and his pupils recorded them and later published these handwritten notes as a book.

This is confirmed in the book by Julian Winston's "The Faces of Homoeopathy": "......His students published the transcription of his extemporaneous Materia Medica (1905)....." (P. 156).

Dr. Kent had Hering Guiding Symptoms in his memory and we can see he often quotes Hering Guiding in his Materia Medica Lectures.

That's the Classical Heritage, passed from generation to generation and that's the success of traditional Calcutta Prescribing.

# <u>Prescribe with confidence with outstanding command of Materia</u> Medica:

All the **Bengal Masters** learnt their Materia Medica sitting at the feet of American and European Masters hence the dependence and confidence of Materia Medica developed; which is also the reason of recent day homoeopaths like George Vithoulkas (Greece), P. Sankaran (Mumbai); S. Koppikar (Chennai); Jugol Kishore (Delhi) came to Calcutta for study.

My Grandfather learnt Miasms sitting at the feet of Dr. J. H. Allen, who also gave us the fourth miasm, Tubercular miasm. That's the beginning of the Banerjea family's tradition and dependence on Miasmatic Prescribing (which I categorise as: **M-TEK**: Miasmatic Totality of the case; combined with Totality of Symptoms; Essence and Keynotes).

What I knew from Dr. Dubey (who heard from his "Guru", Dr. B.K. Bose), that Master Kent have used "Finger Technique" and look at the Repertory to check or confirm 3--4 symptoms (rubrics) that he thinks are essentials in the

#### case; and the medicines thereof.

Although it may seem to be stating the obvious, the repertory is an index. The back pages of the Materia Medica. There are different ways to index material, some intrinsically better than others, some a matter of personal preference. Some indexes are more accurate than others. There's also no doubt that a good index is a valuable complement to its source material, but it can never replace it any more than the index at the back of a reference book could stand in for its contents.

#### Comments on the importance of Materia Medica knowledge:

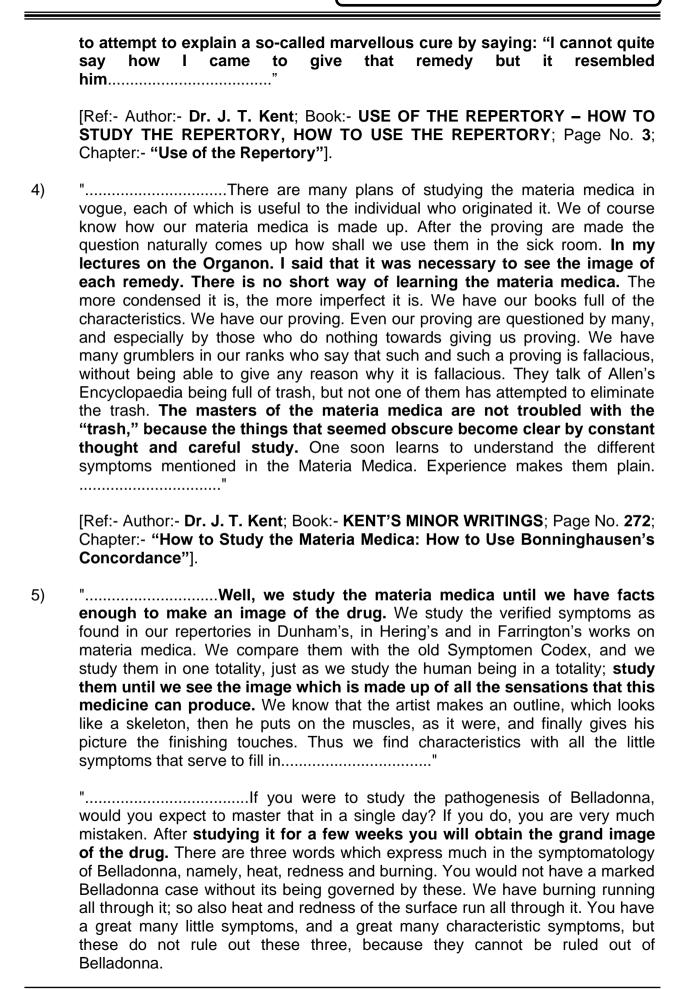
1)	"
2)	"The artist studies his model until he feels the lines and shadows, and in his mind sees the image on canvas or carved in stone. He builds a model and carves in granite the similar. The student of our Materia Medica must study a proving until he feels the image of the totality of sick

[Ref:- Author:- Dr. J. T. Kent; Book:- NEW REMEDIES – CLINICAL CASES LESSER WRITINGS APHORISMS AND PRECEPTS; Page No. 429; Chapter:- "The Study of Our Materia Medica"].

feelings of all the provers as if he had proved this remedy and felt all the morbid

"......The artistic prescriber sees much in the proving that cannot be retained in the Repertory, where everything must be sacrificed for the alphabetical system. The artistic prescriber must study Materia Medica long and earnestly to enable him to fix in his mind sick images, which, when needed, will infill the sick personalities of human beings. These are too numerous and too various to be named or classified. I have often known the intuitive prescriber

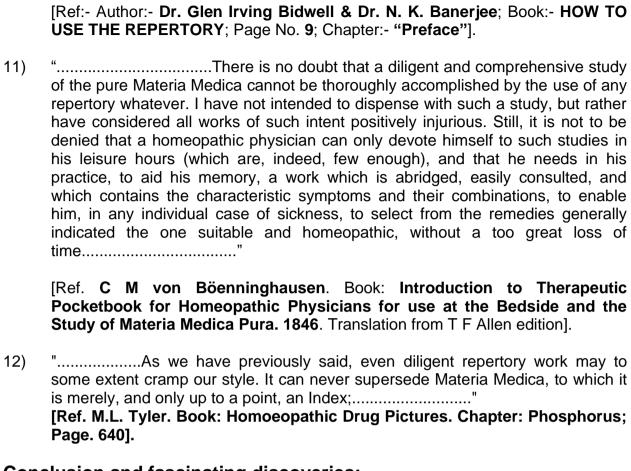
feelings of the provers....."



Who would think of Ipecac for mental symptoms? It has irritability; desire for things, but knows not what, like Chamomilla, Bryonia, and Kreosote. We know that the child is always wanting new toys, then throws this one away and wants another. Experience has led us to Kreosote for such symptoms. If it is coupled with extreme irritability, then it ought to be compared with Chamomilla, which has the same thing. When does Ipecac come in? Now, these mental symptoms are not the first things to guide you to Ipecac, but they are the first things to guide you to Chamomilla and Kreosote. While Ipecac is irritable, it is to be thought of in haemorrhage with terrible nausea, and marked retching. With the marked retching that belongs to Nux Vomica, you might readily overlook lpecac....." [Ref:- Author:- Dr. J. T. Kent; Book:- KENT'S MINOR WRITINGS; Page No. 272 - 273; Chapter:- "How to Study the Materia Medica: How to Use Bonninghausen's Concordance"]. 6) "......You will, however, find that if a physician is successful in picking out what constitutes peculiar symptoms in his patient, will be successful in picking out the he picture...... W. H. Burt said that he commenced with the practice of pure homoeopathy, but he found it a failure and has abandoned it. Why did he fail? Because he was a mere symptom hunter. Homoeopathy marches on just the same as it did, without these men....." [Ref:- Author:- Dr. J. T. Kent; Book:- KENT'S MINOR WRITINGS; Page No. 277; Chapter:- "How to Study the Materia Medica: How to Use Bonninghausen's Concordance"]. 7) "......No such thing as infallibility in prescribing will ever be attained, but he who uses his repertory faithfully and intelligently - and no one can do that without equal faithfulness and intelligence in his study of the Materia Medica – will inevitably reap his reward, in results and in that peace of mind that comes only with an approving conscience....." [Ref:- Author:- Dr. Glen Irving Bidwell & Dr. N. K. Banerjee: Book:- HOW TO **USE THE REPERTORY**; Page No. 5; Chapter:- "Introduction"]. 9) "......The repertory was never made or intended to take the place of the materia medica; I cannot lay too great stress on the fact that it must never replace our constant study and use of the pathogenesis of our remedies, rather it should be used as an index to lighten the task of memory in storing the vast symptomatology of our remedies....." [Ref:- Author:- Dr. Glen Irving Bidwell & Dr. N. K. Banerjee; Book:- HOW TO **USE THE REPERTORY**; Page No. 8; Chapter:- "Preface"]. "......Constantine Hering said: "If our school ever gives up the 10)

strict inductive method of Hahnemann, we are lost and deserve only to be

mentioned as a caricature in the history of medicine......



#### Conclusion and fascinating discoveries:

A. In Kent's Lesser Writings, there are about 108 Clinical Cases out of which repertorisation is given in only in 9 cases. Case No. 16 (Periodical attacks of Chronic Spasms); Case No. 17 (Prolapsus) are good examples of Kent's prescription based on characteristics & generals.

Case No. 49 (Urticaria appearing annually): an interesting case where Master Kent prescribed from the Symptomen Codex of Dr. Jahr (translated into English by Hemplel).

B. Dr. Pierre Schmidt wrote about Kent:

<a href="http://www.homeoxls.com/Pierre-Schmidt-The-life-of-Dr-James-Tyler-Kent.html">http://www.homeoxls.com/Pierre-Schmidt-The-life-of-Dr-James-Tyler-Kent.html</a>

"......This college (Philadelphia Post Graduate School of Homoeopathics) had the reputation of being the best homoeopathic school in the world. In addition to being the Dean of that institution he also taught homoeopathic philosophy, repertorisation and Materia Medica and he conducted an out-patient clinic. As an illustration of the activity of this clinic it may be mentioned that during the years 1896 and 1897 a total of over 34,800 consultations took place here......." [Essentials of Repertorisation, Fourth Edition (A Comprehensive textbook on Case Taking and Repertorisation); **Published By** B. Jain Publishers; **Chapter:**-James Tyler Kent's Life And Work; **Author:-** Prof. Dr. Shashi Kant Tiwari; Page No. 659]

#### My comments on the above quote:

- (i) In the Clinic of Philadelphia Post Graduate School of Homoeopathics, during the year 1896 & 1897, a total of 34,800 consultations took place. This is an average of at least 60 patients per day; considering working 6 days a week! This is utterly impossible to do by mechanical repertorisation without the aid of computer!
- (ii) After 1903, in the Hering Homoeopathic Medical College, Kent could come with a prescription within a few minutes.

  <a href="http://www.homeoxls.com/Pierre-Schmidt-The-life-of-Dr-James-Tyler-Kent.html">http://www.homeoxls.com/Pierre-Schmidt-The-life-of-Dr-James-Tyler-Kent.html</a>
- (iv) In 1896 Kent and his pupils saw over 18,800 patients in one year...

That's 63 patients per day, considering working 6 days a week!

https://www.sueyounghistories.com/2008-03-28-james-tyler-kent-and-homeopathy/

#### It's the time for change in order for Homoeopathy to survive:

- A. Develop the command of Materia Medica and teach the students accordingly rather than advocating short-cuts. As Dr. Kent says:
  - (i) "......The student of our Materia Medica must study a proving until he feels the image of the totality of sick feelings......"

    [Ref:- Author:- Dr. J. T. Kent; Book:- NEW REMEDIES CLINICAL CASES LESSER WRITINGS APHORISMS AND PRECEPTS; Page No. 429; Chapter:- "The Study of Our Materia Medica"].
  - (ii) The artistic prescriber must study Materia Medica long and earnestly to enable him to fix in his mind sick images, which, when needed, will infill the sick personalities of human beings. These are too numerous and too various to be named or classified. I have often known the *intuitive* prescriber to attempt to explain a so-called marvellous cure by saying: "I cannot quite say how I came to give that remedy but it resembled him."

[Ref:- Author:- Dr. J. T. Kent; Book:- USE OF THE REPERTORY – HOW TO STUDY THE REPERTORY, HOW TO USE THE REPERTORY; Page No. 3; Chapter:- "Use of the Repertory"].

- (iii) In my lectures on the Organon. I said that it was necessary to see the image of each remedy. There is no short way of learning the Materia Medica. [Ref:- Author:- Dr. J. T. Kent; Book:- KENT'S MINOR WRITINGS; Page No. 272; Chapter:- "How to Study the Materia Medica: How to Use Boenninghausen's Concordance"].
- B. In the full time B.H.M.S Degree Course in different Universities in India, especially in Bengal, Repertory is only introduced and taught from the 4th year, while immersion in the ocean of Materia Medica for first three years.
  - Whereas, in most of the western homoeopathic colleges (of course excepting at the Allen College), Repertory is the prime subject from the 1st year. Why is this short-cut and misguidance taught to the students?
- C. One last story, I like to share:
  In my third year of BHMS studies, I thought, I have done well in my first two years and stood first at the University; hence to show my so-called progression in my studies I brought 'Kent's Repertory' in the class.

Dr. Dubey saw the book, picked it up and threw my book out of the class room and warned me that, "Boy, you learn the language first and not the dictionary"; this still reverberates in my ears.

Once	again,	please do	not n	nis-u	ınderstand,	the	Repert	ory	has its ow	n pla	ice.
"		The	aim	of	Repertory	is	never	to	replace	the	Materia
	Medic	a, but to l	help ir	n the	final choic	e of	single	med	dicine		It is a
means	s to an	end, neve	er an e	end	in itself		"				

Dr. Boger says, ".......Every repertory is useful, unfortunately not one is complete......" [Essentials of Repertorization, Second Edition (A Comprehensive text book on Case Taking and Repertorization); Published By B. Jain Publishers; Chapter:- Limitations of Repertory; Author:- Prof. Dr. Shashi Kant Tiwari; Page No. 8,13 & 14].



# Summer Conference 2021 in England

In this unprecedented pandemic situation, the Summer School 2021 starting from 19th June (Saturday), will be transmitted live from the classroom in England using the state of the art technology <a href="https://www.webex.com">www.webex.com</a> for clear sound & picture (live interaction possible during the teaching).

The recorded sessions will be kept for 3 months for unlimited viewings.

Summer Conference 2021: 7 days of intensive exposure of
Comparative Materia Medica & Clinical Homoeopathy19th June (Saturday) to 26th June (Saturday), 2021: via WebEx Only
(No Classroom participation for this year).

#### Fees:

• Interactive Video-link transmitted directly from the Classroom: £630. Partial Video link participation £98 per day.

7 full days intensive, clinic-orientated Practical teaching. Extensive lecture notes for each day.

• If you only want the session recordings: Recordings will be kept for 3 months for unlimited viewings: £360 (with extensive handout) or £60 per day.

#### All of the above includes:

Unlimited viewing of each recorded sessions (for Class room as well as Video linked participants) for 12 weeks after the class (till mid-September).

If weekdays are difficult, All Video link participants and have unlimited viewings of recordings.

Subrata is dedicating 2021 Summer Conference completely as Clinic oriented teaching; dedicated to <u>Practical Homoeopathy</u>. The programme aims to close the gap between theory and practice and guarantee the use of Miasmatic knowledge and confidently use Materia Medica and Organon in everyday practice.

Extensive lecture notes are provided. It will be sent 4 weeks in advance by email, for your pre-class studies.

Details: <a href="https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/courses/england/7-day-summer-conference">https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/courses/england/7-day-summer-conference</a>

Time table: <a href="https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/images/pdf/Summer-School-2020-Timetable.pdf">https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/images/pdf/Summer-School-2020-Timetable.pdf</a>

Pictures: <a href="https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/resources/image-galleries/summer-conference">https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/resources/image-galleries/summer-conference</a>

<u>Subrata's lectures: sample videos</u>: <u>https://www.homoeopathy-course.com/resources/video-gallery</u>

If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Warm welcome to Allen College, the home of Classical & Practical Homoeopathy.



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