

Farokh J. Master

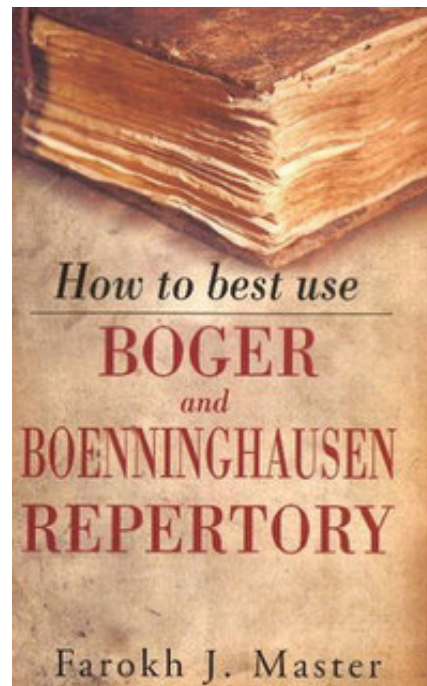
How to Best Use Boger & Boenninghausen Repertory

Reading excerpt

[How to Best Use Boger & Boenninghausen Repertory](#)

of [Farokh J. Master](#)

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Narayana Verlag GmbH, Blumenplatz 2, D-79400 Kandern, Germany

Tel. +49 7626 9749 700

Email info@narayana-verlag.com

<http://www.narayana-verlag.com>



- Not only did the breaking up of symptoms make the *Materia Medica* a vast source of knowledge of various forms in which a disease could occur in nature but also helped one to have access to many remedies, which would have been otherwise missed out even when capable of producing similar set of symptoms.

Let us Understand This Using a Suitable Example

If we consider, the symptom, respiration difficult, whenever the patient tries to cough - Mephitis is the remedy mentioned in Kent's repertory. Now let us say we do not break up this symptom. Then the symptom would have to be repeated under different rubrics like respiration asthmatic, respiration catching, respiration difficult, respiration impeded, cough aggravates, expiration aggravates, etc.

Let us now see what happens when this symptom is broken up according to the theory of Grand Generalization. Breaking up the symptom we can see it under various rubrics like:

- Respiration - asthma (42 remedies, page no. 690)
- Respiration - difficult (94 remedies, page no. 691)
- Respiration - oppressed (144 remedies, page no 693)
- Respiration -Aggravation - cough during (21 remedies, page no. 700), etc.

Here we find that breaking up the symptom into the individual components and then arranging them under various rubrics opens the avenue to a number of other remedies like Cuprum, Drosera, etc that emerge out equally prominently.

- Thus by breaking up the symptoms into meaningful parts, our capacity to combine them in diverse conditions of illnesses and finding the simillimum for a case increases.
- By doing so we do not miss any other remedies which might be equally important in the case.

Fixing a Comparative Value to The Remedies in Relation to Given Symptom

- A mere indexing of the symptoms and their respective remedies would not suffice the purpose of individualization.
- A recording of this kind would be lacking in quality, which is essential if one has to stick to the fundamental principle of Homoeopathy that is Individualization.
- By quality here, we mean that the recording of the remedies for a particular symptom should be such that they can be differentiated from each other in terms of their intensity and qualification with regards to the symptom.
- Dr Boenninghausen felt that this important aspect should be known by the physician in weighing the applicability of one remedy against others.
- To meet this difficulty, Dr Boenninghausen, assigned different marks to the remedies, denoted by the different types used for different marks. These were as follows:
 - CAPITALS denotes 5 Marks
 - **Bold** denotes 4 Marks
 - *Italics* denotes 3 Marks
 - Ordinary type denotes 2 Marks
 - (Ordinary type) in parenthesis denotes 1 Mark
- He affixed the above grades based on the following criteria:
 - The I grade remedies (5 Marks) produced the symptom in most of the prover's and have given repeated clinical confirmation.
 - The II grade remedies (4 Marks) are only a shade lower than the first grade.
 - The III grade remedies (3 Marks), though observed in the provings less often, have received clinical confirmation.
 - The IV grade symptoms (2 Marks) have been confirmed in practice occasionally. They should not be ignored merely

because of their low rank, if, with other symptoms of the totality complex, they lead us to their choice.

- The V grade symptom are neither verified nor confirmed.
- In fixing the exact relative values of the remedies, he spared no industry, care or circumspection to avoid errors as far as possible.

The above-mentioned points fulfilled the basic needs of compiling an index to the *Materia Medica*.

The keen and observing mind of Dr Boenninghausen did not stop at this. He was a true Experimenter and a keen Scientific Observer. He was aware of the practical difficulties faced in making a prescription and the obstacles faced in managing a case especially for the new comers. He had made a thorough study of the symptomatology of the cases; the use of remedies and the thorough follow ups with sound understanding.

Keeping the practical difficulties in mind, Dr Boenninghausen came forth with many important concepts, which he incorporated in his works.

In the Therapeutic Pocket Book, Dr Boenninghausen introduced two more important concepts. They are:

- The Doctrine of the Concomitant Symptoms
- Concordances Of Remedies (renamed by Dr Allen as 'Relationship Of Remedies')

Doctrine of Concomitant Symptoms

- Concomitant Symptoms are *symptoms that appear before, during or after the chief complaint and have no pathophysiological relation* to it i.e. they share a time relation with the chief complaint but are not related to the process of disease.
- The concept of the concomitant symptom was developed by Dr Boenninghausen, based on the instructions given by Dr Hahnemann in relation to Case Taking. Here, Dr Hahnemann has laid emphasis on the point that one should enquire into the details of the symptoms that occur before, during and after the main complaint.

Sleep and Dreams

Concept:

- Sleep is that state where the control of the conscious mind is inhibited.
- It thus represents those important features of a person, which are true and individualistic.
- Various expressions of this state are to be taken into consideration in forming the totality. The nature of sleep, positions during sleep, kind of dreams, etc., is an important component of the totality.

Arrangement in the Repertory:

- The rubrics are mentioned in the main chapter of "Sleep and Dreams"

Utility:

- Many a times these rubrics have been of great aid in differentiating the remedies.
- Rubrics related to the positions assumed during sleep sometimes leads to the curative remedy. E.g. a case presenting with fig warts where lying on abdomen during sleep is a very important symptom, referring the rubric Skin and Exterior of the body - fig warts, Condylomata etc. (page no. 954) and Sleep-Positions during sleep-Lying on abdomen (page no.991), Calc-c stands out as the prominent remedy.

Limitations:

- Various types of sleep patterns like anxious, comatose, coma vigil, disturbed, etc. have not been mentioned.
- Important rubrics in relation to the positions assumed during sleep for e.g. Sleep - Position - arms - head - over, arms - head - under the, changed frequently, curled up - dog; like a, face; on the, head - bored into pillow, side; on - impossible, side; on - right side; on, etc. are missing.

Advantages and Utility of BB Repertory

To find out the simillimum, after case taking when the practitioner is perplexed with the maze of symptoms, the symptoms placed under totality can be converted into rubrics, which can be located in the repertory.

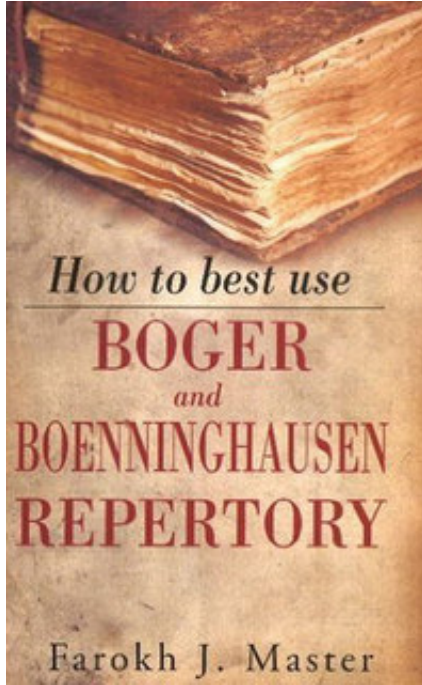
Serves as a reference book, expanding our knowledge of Materia Medica.

It enlists a large number of clinical rubrics/ diagnostic rubrics and pathological generals and also a large number of remedies for the same, which helps in the study of homoeopathy in relation to modern pathology.

E.g.

- Under the chapter of Sensations and Complaints in General
 - Chlorosis
 - Induration
 - Inflammation
 - Sycosis
 - Syphilis
 - Uremia
 - Obesity
- Chest - Tuberculosis, pulmonary
- Chest - Heart and region of - Angina pectoris
- Sensations and complaints in general - Asphyxia

- Sensations and complaints in general - Haemophilia
- Bones - Curvature (rachitic)
- Skin and exterior body - Abscess, boils, carbuncle
- It suggests related remedies under the chapter of 'Concordances and Relationships', which could serve for the second prescription.
- Fever Totality- unique and important contribution where each stage of fever is followed by time, aggravation, amelioration and concomitant. This helps in repertorizing all cases of pyrexia thoroughly.
- Lymph node system and glands has been mentioned in Boger Boenninghausen repertory, which has no mention in any other source.
- Unlike the Therapeutic Pocket Book and Kent's Repertory, in Boger Boenninghausen Repertory each location is followed by the particular sensations, modalities and concomitants thus proving more useful in short and acute cases.
- Different types of constitutions and diathesis with group of remedies is available in various chapters E.g.
 - Mind - Phlegmatic
 - Aggravation and amelioration in general - Uric acid diathesis
- Rubric - Infant, Affections of in 'Sensations And Complaints in General' is unique and very useful in Paediatric practice.
- Chapter on menstruation is highly elaborate and well arranged consisting of rubrics 'before menses, at the start of menses, during menses, after menses and lastly the concomitants'.
- A separate and elaborate chapter on 'leucorrhoea' is given in Boger Boenninghausen repertory.
- Cross-references are given as a sub-section at the end of almost all chapters, helping to find an appropriate rubric.
- Important rubrics of mind are found in Boger Boenninghausen repertory which are not available even in Synthetic repertory E.g. Alcoholism, intoxication
Beseeching



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