

## Foreword

The anatomic order of symptoms from head to foot that Hahnemann and all other authors use is of great help in quickly finding the local symptoms. Even in huge repertories it is a clear thing. For example “Stitching pain in occiput when stooping” has a definite place in all books. It does not matter if the prover called it an awful piercing in the back of head whenever he touches his feet. The symptom is correctly listed as HEAD PAIN; STITCHING; Occiput; stooping, after.

If we assume that the mental sphere in homeopathy and in man is at least as important as the physical sphere, we need a similar helpful order of mental symptoms.

But what do we have? Hahnemann and most other books list mental symptoms indiscriminately as if they were insignificant requiring a small chapter such as “Stool” and did not need a detailed scheme. Only some books, like T.F. Allen’s have a rough differentiation between Emotional and Intellectual. But we might even say that mind, soul and body are all aspects of humanity that are of equivalent importance, so that each of these aspects would need a chapter with as many rubrics as the body.

In the repertory the rubric names chosen are listed alphabetically. In the mental sphere there are a lot of words that are not quite synonymous and form a continuum of meanings. It is often highly arbitrary as to where a remedy is listed. Is it more apprehension or anxiety or fear or anguish or nightmare or panic or frightened or sorrow or starting or frightful delusion? Cross-references are certainly helpful, but we have to admit that we have no way of finding mental symptoms and their remedies as assuredly as in the physical sphere. The gift of Kent has not yet worked for the mental symptoms: we still have to know most symptoms or at least rubrics by heart to find what we need. But the purpose of a repertory is to find what we don’t know. Kent’s mind chapter was still small. But today we have so much information in the Complete Repertory of Mind that it is impossible to survey it all.

A breakthrough was achieved by Mirilli’s Thematic Repertory.

He solves the problem in two ways:

First he arranges the symptoms by themes that is according to how we think when we try to understand the patient.

Second he quotes the original provers’ words thus differentiating exactly what is really meant by this symptom in this remedy.

Mirilli's book is not only a repertory. It is the first approach to themes of remedies and so to deeper understanding of their cores that is based scientifically, which means in homeopathy: proving without speculation. When reading in Mirilli's book about some symptoms or ideas of a remedy that we knew so far vaguely by a repertory rubric or from a rumour heard in a seminar they suddenly become clear, distinct, coloured. But not by imagining what might be meant behind the shortened words of a rubric or a teacher but by quoting the explicit and vivacious words of the prover. It is amazing to see how much Hahnemann's notes enable us to get a detailed feeling for the suffering of a remedy when arranged by themes. We don't need to speculate!

In this way the so called ideas and themes of remedies that were so far suspicious to be fictive are now based on reliable and true sources. So Mirilli fulfills what is required in § 144 Organon.

Usually it is tiring work to read the complete literal provers' notes in books such as Hahnemann's, T.F. Allen's or Hughes'. But when reading Mirilli, where the same sentences are arranged by themes comparing the remedies it becomes suddenly exciting and enlightening.

The first editions of the Thematic Repertory were obviously incomplete. Now the fitting rubrics from the Complete Repertory have been added so that the number of remedies listed is nearly complete. The aim must be to give the original prover's words instead of (or in addition to) the rubrics. But unfortunately many items in Kent's Repertory cannot be found in other sources so the two-fold structure of the Thematic Repertory will have to stay.

Henning Droege  
Arzt fuer Allgemeinmedizin  
Homoeopathie, Naturheilverfahren  
Rembrechtser Str. 41 (Haslach)  
D-88239 Wangen im Allgaeu  
Tel. 07528-9133-3, fax -5  
Henning.Droege@t-online.de