

# BOENNINGHAUSEN- MILESTONE OF REPERTORY

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## ABSTRACT

The Homeopathic Repertory (from Latin repertorium, an inventory) emerged as a concept around 1805 when Hahnemann started cataloguing all the symptoms gathered from the growing number of provings, he was by then conducting. His alphabetical list of symptoms grew to 4 volumes but was never published.

It was Hahnemann who first realized the need for some form of Index to recalling the symptoms of our ever-increasing proving's data. For the same purpose many of masters like Dr. Jahr, Ruckert had tried their best, but no one could reach upto the mark according to Dr. Hahnemann.

Boenninghausen's legal mind seized upon several silent features in the cumbersome provings, by means of which he was able to device and perfect a repertory that was much more continent, much more elaborate, and at the same time compact, comprehensive and easy to use.

Finally after taking great pains by Dr. Boenninghausen, It was 25 years, after the first repertory appeared in print – Boenninghausen's Repertory of Antipsoric Medicines – in 1832 which was forwarded by our founder Dr. Hahnemann.

Boenninghausen was not however, satisfied with his own work, and he went on from one form to another, in an attempt to condense space and lessen the arduous task of finding the indicated remedy.

By that time, there were a number of other repertories also. But the work of Boenninghausen caught the imagination of the profession, and one really wonders at the extent of influence it exerted over the entire homoeopathic profession for the next 50 years or so.

**Keywords:** Boenninghausen, repertory, philosophy, antipsoric, materiamedica, simillimum.

## Introduction

### Education

**Clemens Maria Franz Freiherr (Baron) von Boenninghausen** (Herinckhave near Fleringen, 12 March 1785 – Münster, 26 January 1864) was a lawyer, Dutch and Prussian civil servant, agriculturalist, botanist, physician and pioneer in the field of the homeopathy.

### Conversion to Homoeopathy-

In 1827 he suffered a derangement of health, which had hitherto been excellent and two of the most celebrated physicians obtainable declared this to be purulent tuberculosis. His health continued to decline until the spring of 1828, when all hope of his recovery was given up.

At this time he wrote a farewell letter to his close botanical friend, August Weihe, M. D., who was the first homoeopathic physician Weihe sent some Pulsatilla which Boenninghausen took according to the directions, following also the course of advice which Weihe gave him regarding hygienic measures. Boenninghausen recovery was gradual but constant, so that by the end of the summer he was considered as cured.

This event bred in Boenninghausen a firm belief in the result of homeopathic treatment, and he looked well into

the matter. He became thoroughly interested in the principles of the new method of healing, and did his best to create an interest in Homeopathy among the physicians with whom he came in contact.

### **Becoming close student of Dr. Hahnemann**

He became a close associate and confidant of his teacher Samuel Hahnemann, founder of the homeopathy, who admired Boenninghausen's ability to systematize the expanding homeopathic knowledge of materia medica. Hahnemann was such enthusiastic that he called him his *Lieblingsschüler* (Favorite student). He said: "Am I to become sick myself, then I would trust no other physician in the world, except for him."

Even in Hahnemann's day there was a need for an index to the expanding Materia Medica. Hahnemann himself began to compile such a work around 1817. His *Symptomenlexikon* reached four volumes of alphabetically-listed symptoms from his *Materia Medica Pura* and *Chronic Diseases* but was never completed.

About 1830, Hahnemann was acutely feeling the need of a guiding index or repertory, but was undecided as to the nature or form of index. That is why, we see him asking different disciples to prepare a suitable repertory. Ruckert, Grass, Jahr and Boenninghausen were the four men, who set about helping in this project about the same period.

Jahr worked on the second part of 'Chronic Diseases' to compile a repertory which was published in two volumes in German language in 1885 but Hahnemann did not approve his work as he felt that his work was not exact.

One of the earliest repertories was by Hartlaub published in 1828 in Leipzig.

While Hahnemann was fumbling with the development of a suitable form of index or repertory, Boenninghausen's keen intellect was already busy at finding a suitable reportorial index for guidance in his own practice. Hahnemann was quick to recognize his genius. Being disappointed in Jahr, Hahnemann gave him every assistance and encouragement. Like Hahnemann, Boenninghausen was also through in his work and whatever he undertook; he did that with the exactitude of a true scientist.

In **January 1832**, Dr. Hahnemann wrote a letter to Dr. Boenninghausen, as "My Repertory was an alphabetical record which could not only be of great service in looking up the necessary symptoms of the medicine.

### **Repertories earlier to Antipsoric repertories-**

Dr. S. Hahnemann = 1) In 1805 his book "Fragmenta De viribus medicamentorum positivissime in sanocorpore humano observatis".

2) In 1817- Dr. Hahnemann prepared another short repertory "The symptom dictionary"

Dr. Ruckert = Early contributor in the evolution of Repertory. In 1830 he prepared one Repertory but it was not found upto the mark.

Dr. Gross = Gross started working for compilation of Repertory, he compiled two volumes of a Repertory that never appeared in print.

Dr. G.H.G. Jahr = His first Repertory was published in two volumes in German language and later on published a third Repertory on bones, glands, mucous membranes, ducts & skin diseases. But Hahnemann did not approved Dr. Jahr's work as he felt that his work was not exact, these again remained in manuscript.

### **Pains taken by Dr. Boenninghausen towards compilation of repertory-**

Boenninghausen knew about the Scheme of Hahnemann (the sequence in which the proved symptoms of homoeopathic remedies were arranged by Hahnemann). He knew all the proved anti-psoric remedies and their characteristic symptoms. Hence he was best fitted to compile the first 'Repertory'. Dr. Hahnemann used the 'Repertory' and found it very handy and useful.

The second task allotted to Boenninghausen by Hahnemann was to prepare a 'Repertory' to make it easier to choose the correct homoeopathic remedy. It was very difficult and time-consuming to select the similimum from the vast 'Materia Medica', hence the idea of 'Repertory' was the only answer.

Early ongoing attempts at creating an index during the 1820s and 1830s employed a range of techniques from simple alphabetic listing of symptoms to more complex arrangements based on the characterizations of symptoms expounded in the Organon. These ordered arrangements, undertaken by such notable homeopaths as Boenninghausen, Jahr and Hering, made it easier to find specific symptoms.

It was Boenninghausen who introduced the first repertory of the homeopathic materia medica. This repertory was published in **1832 and was called the Systemic Alphabetic Repertory of Antipsoric Remedies (SRA)**.

Source of his this – materiamedicapura and chronic diseases. With this work Boenninghausen introduced the use of rubrics to summarize lengthy proving symptoms and also introduced a four-tiered remedy grading scheme to indicate clinical reliability. Its organization was no longer merely alphabetic, being arranged now according to the various body regions and systems found in Hahnemann's MateriaMedicaPura and Chronic Diseases. In introduction to this book, he said that his object was “completeness, brevity and ease in consultation”.

Boenninghausen was nothowever, satisfied with his own work, and he went on from one form to another, in an attempt to condense space and lessen the arduous task of finding the indicated remedy.

Most of the systematic works written by Boenninghausen concerning Homeopathy were published between 1828 and 1846. However, his literary work was much hampered by the permission to practice freely, and he did not publish his books as frequently after that event, although he spent much time at that labor

**In 1835** the second volume of this repertory, the **Systemic Alphabetic Repertory of Non-Antipsoric Remedies (SRN)** was published. These two works comprise the first repertory of Boenninghausen and form the model on which our modern repertories are based.

Boenninghausen did not cease his efforts to construct a repertory with the publication of his SRA and SRN. At the urging of Hahnemann, he set out to combine these two earlier works into a single volume but gave up the endeavor when he realized that it could not be achieved in a manageable form.

It was while attempting the amalgamation of his two repertories that Boenninghausen realized the approach that would result in his **1846 repertory called The Therapeutic Pocketbook for Homeopathic Physicians** for use at the Bedside and the Study of MateriaMedicaPura – most often referred to as the Therapeutic Pocketbook.

It was the very first repertory which was based and structured on a philosophic concept, which had a principle of its own for its arrangement as well as use and which was the very first Repertory for systemic and full Repertorization.

Boenninghausen had a very analytical and logical mind. He could see that in this present form of his book (therapeutic pocket book), it was no longer a repertory in the accepted sense of word. It was a revolutionary departure in creating an instrument, which could help the prescribers tremendously in their search for similimum  
**Effect of his logical mind in homoeopathic world-**

The hexameter as the “Whodunit?” of crime is essential for all criminal investigations; viz., who? What? Where? When? Why? All crime stories utilized these verses commonly for investigation. The verse is: Quis? Quid? Ubi? Quibus Auxilis? Cur? Quomodo? Quando? These seven are translated to: Who? What? When? What else? Why? What modifies? When? Respectively.

### **Influence of Boenninghausen's repertory –**

In 1834 Jahr published a repertory based on Boenninghausen's SRA. Its second edition was translated into English under the editorship of Hering. This version later found its way, via Lippe and later on Lee, into Kent's repertory. Jahr in his preface to the 4th edition of his Repertory in 1851 gave Boenninghausen the credit for the system of evaluating remedies.

After Boenninghausen had shown the path, so much interest was created for the Repertory that in coming six decades about 30 repertories came out.

By 1880, while Boenninghausen's work still prevailed in the field of Repertory, a large number of clinical and regional repertories started appearing.

Also formed the basis of many future repertories like that of Jahr, Allentown's manual, Lippes repertory and even the Kents repertory.

### **Different concepts introduced by Dr. Boenninghausen -**

He was practically the first to make the **first**

- general repertory;
- to give evaluation to remedies in particular rubric;
- principle of analogy;
- certain drugs having peculiar concomitants;
- Concordance of remedies.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

Boenninghausen was one of the few Remarkable man, without whom, the science of Homoeopathy might have been deprived of a vital link.

Boenninghausen, the lawyer, possessed of a brilliant legal and scientific mind, was quick to grasp the inner logic of the new system of medicine called homoeopathy.

It will be not out of place to mention something about the first Repertory by Dr. Boenninghausen as it was appreciated and used by Hahnemann in his daily practice, and also formed the basis of many future repertories like that of Jahr, Allentown's manual, Lippes repertory and even the Kents repertory.

Kent made fullest use of Boenninghausen's Sensation and General Modalities by incorporating them in Generalities. Kents work grew out of

“Boenninghausen's Repertory of the Antipsoric”

One of the outstanding differences in repertory construction that Boenninghausen embodied in his earliest repertories was the variation in sizes of types, signifying the varying importance of the symptom- rubric to the various drug listed .

All his contribution in the field of repertory which was admired by Dr. Hahnemann, gives him honor of becoming

### **Father of Repertory.**

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