

Book review

Synthesis 9.1

Repertorium Homeopathicum Syntheticum, Edition 9.1

Editor: Dr Frederik Schroyens Published by: Homeopathic Book Publishers, London, 2004. ISBN 1-902575-15-6

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Are you looking for a homoeopathic source repertory to take you into the future? Look no further. Frederik Schroyens has enhanced his latest edition of Synthesis with a combination of innovative structural advances and thousands of references from classical and modern sources. All consistent with his philosophy to “never sacrifice quality for quantity of repertory information”. Space does not allow for a description of all the advances, but here are some highlights to wet your appetite. *

1) Synthesis 9.1 describes 2,373 remedies - 115 new remedies compared to Synthesis 8.1*, and almost 120 more than Repertorium Universale - Roger van Zandvoort's latest repertory.

2) Frederik has taken a revolutionary step to restructure and streamline symptoms, which has uncovered heaps of previously hidden and dispersed information...

· Firstly, in all Kentian repertories till now, thousands of symptoms expressing the same side, time, modality, extension or localization, were scattered pages apart under sub-rubrics of pain descriptions. Frederik moved the descriptions of pain to the last level, bringing these hidden symptoms close together.

· Secondly, different ways of expressing the same modalities, localizations and descriptions of pain were filtered and then standardized.

For example, “cold air aggravates” can be expressed in 36 different ways in our repertories, such as “cold - air agg.” or “air - cold; from”, etc. Only Synthesis 9.1 finally gives us one coherent expression throughout, namely “cold - air - agg”.

These are most welcome advances from Synthesis!

3) Bönninghausen's approach is undergoing a tremendous global revival, so I'm glad that the major repertory works from Boger and Bönninghausen are now fully integrated into Synthesis. This effectively closes the gap between the Kentian and Bönninghausen schools, with both types of information in one complete source.

4) The new Synthesis CD is packed with practical aids. With the

easy search engine I can quickly locate symptoms by Concepts and Themes, consult remedy families and relationships, browse useful articles on the philosophy and history of repertories and find where to order new remedies. There is even an empty repertorization grid for repertorizing, and a video of Will Taylor and Frederik Schroyens discussing the advances in Synthesis 9.1.

5) Finally, something that emphasizes the significance of Frederik's thoughtful restructuring and streamlining of the repertory, and which students will really appreciate: In spite of the hundreds of thousands of additions, Synthesis 9.1 is marvelously manageable in only 1 convenient volume with only 2088 pages! I see Synthesis 9.1 as a landmark and new benchmark in the evolution of homoeopathic repertories – more inclusive and more universal than any other repertory.

* View the complete profile of Synthesis 9.1 at:
www.archibel.com/homeopathy/synthesis/9.1

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