

## FOREWORD BY THE EDITOR

On behalf of all those who have joined their efforts together to create this first printed edition of Synthesis, we are happy to introduce you to our project. Synthesis is not only the latest in a long line of Repertories, but consolidates also one of the most ingenious homeopathic projects of this century.

Synthesis is the enlarged Repertory of Kent, linked to the homeopathic software program Radar. Radar was created in the early Eighties and Synthesis has been at the core of its development since the very beginning. Each new version has been the fruit of thousands of hours of work by many dedicated people. Synthesis was enlarged with additions, but they only increased 15 to 30 %<sup>1</sup> at each step. We believe it is this policy which is the key to the exceptional quality of our Repertory. Every version of Synthesis has been used millions of times by leading homeopaths during their daily work before it was used to build another edition. As can be expected from these critical minds, they have checked the rubrics and the remedies over and over again. Their comments were integrated in each new edition.

Today (1993), nearly 2000 Radar users are running version 4 of Synthesis. What is being printed is version 5, on which we have been focusing as never before since July 1992.

The request to have Synthesis printed was mentioned already some time ago, but we did not feel the time was right. Yet these requests only increased with each successive edition of Synthesis in order to allow the more convenient study of the many corrections and additions.

Version 4 of Synthesis contains about 178 000 additions to Kent's Repertory. This number has "only" increased by a few thousand additions for version 5. The reason is that, from a certain point onwards, we decided to focus all our attention on

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<sup>1</sup> This percentage indicates the number of new additions compared to the number of additions existing in the previous version (the latter is considered to be 100 %).

the creation of a printed version of the highest quality. By doing so, we had the opportunity to rethink a number of options and rules that are not consistently followed throughout other Repertories. Also new rules were created, because our sole aim was to enhance transparency, consistency and readability<sup>2</sup>.

We estimated the time had come to improve on a qualitative level the language and the structure Kent used, but within the hierarchical frame that most homeopaths are used to. We trust our option will prove the best way to counteract the mentality where progress in homeopathy is still only measured by quantity, be it additions or megabytes available. This version of Synthesis is now a very sound basis to make more additions.

Some additional reasons for the exceptional quality of this Repertory are:

\* Synthesis contains **repeatedly checked additions** from the standard homeopathic literature, including Kent, Hahnemann, Hering, Allen, Clarke, Boericke, Knerr, etc. Additions from living authors are added only with caution and most often only in the first degree unless confirmation (of a higher degree) comes from other authors.

\* thousands of **corrections to Kent's Repertory** have been made. They are recognisable as the remedy in these cases mentions "K" (= Kent's Repertory) as well as the reference indicating the source of the correction.

E.g.: See: "Delusion - starve - he must": kali-m.<sub>k,c1</sub> indicates this remedy in Kent was corrected on the basis of a symptom in Clarke's Dictionary. More rarely this type of reference is used to indicate a confirmation of Kent's information.

\* thousands of symptoms have been rewritten following a **clearly readable "symptom format"**. At each level, either the

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<sup>2</sup> You can find all details on these rules in a separate chapter at the end of this book.

words follow each other in the normal order, or the sentence is split only once. This split is indicated by the sign ";" to show the place from which one should start reading. This differs from the presence of a "," which is used to improve readability.

E.g.: "pieces, sensation as if head would fall in, when stooping" became: "pieces, on stooping; sensation as if head would fall in"

\* the **structure of the symptoms** has been made more transparent in order to avoid all possible ambiguity. This was especially the case for symptoms where subrubrics seemed to depend on superrubrics with a contradictory meaning.

E.g.: "generals - trembling externally - internally - joy, from" became "generals - trembling - externally - joy, from"

\* a list of **combined modalities** has consistently been applied throughout Synthesis: the parts of a same combined modality can always be found in the same order.

E.g.: "cold wet weather" is to be searched as "**w**eather - cold - wet", never under "**c**old damp weather" and never under "**d**amp cold weather"

\* the order of the **groups of symptoms** (sides, times, modalities, extensions, localizations, descriptions) was followed throughout and corrected wherever necessary. Also the specific order of the symptoms within each group was applied.

E.g.: "teeth - pain": localizations precede anything else; "alternating sides" or "one side" are sometimes positioned between the sides, sometimes between the modalities.

\* **leading words** have been positioned in front at each level and the alphabetical sorting was corrected accordingly if necessary.

E.g.: "in bed" => "bed, in"; "as if frozen" => "frozen, as if",

...

\* **insufficiently clear symptoms** have been completed on the basis of the Materia Medica.

E.g.: "cough - sulphur fumes or vapor, sensation of agg."  
=> "cough - sulphur fumes or vapor; cough agg. by sensation of"

\* whenever possible **ambiguous words** have been clarified.

E.g.: "breast" has been replaced by "chest" or "mmae",  
"storm" by "stormy weather" or by "thunderstorm", ...

\* some **global superrubrics** were created so that one can find more easily related symptoms.

E.g.: symptoms on "periodicity" or "children" have become subrubrics of "periodicity" and "children" respectively.

\* Too **similar rubrics** were merged into one.

E.g.: "nose - obstruction - alternating sides" and "nose - obstruction - one side - alternately"

\* symptoms were **split into meaningful bits** whenever this was not yet done by Kent.

E.g.: "cough - loose - exercise and warm room agg." was split in two rubrics "exercise" and "warm room - going into a warm room" (for the correction: see Bromium in HR1)

\* the **language of the Repertory** has been completely revised.

- Nineteenth century spelling has been consistently replaced by modern American English spelling. The whole book has been spell-checked by computer.

E.g.: "anaemia" became "anemia"; "diarrhoea": "diarrhea"; "faeces": "feces"; "haemorrhoids": "hemorrhoids"; ...

- For hundreds of words or expressions, written in two or more ways, only one has been maintained, based on Webster's Dictionary.

E.g.: "descending stairs" in Synthesis replaces "descending stairs, when", "descending steps",

"going down stairs" and "stairs, on going down",  
all of which exist in Kent

- Seldom used words and expressions have been replaced by contemporary language, for everyday language as well as for medical expressions.

E.g.: "dipsomania" by "alcoholism", "childbed" by "delivery - after", ...

- The hours and times of aggravation have been given the same order and hierarchical structure everywhere.

\* **Clinical rubrics** were renamed according to modern disease names. New clinical rubrics were introduced with caution, as sufficient clinical verification is still lacking in most cases.

E.g.: "coryza - annual" became "hayfever"; "skin - becomes sore" became "decubitus", ...

\* a **new standard list of remedy abbreviations** is presented. Many new remedies have been added, all abbreviated following the same rules used by Kent. The differences between the remedy abbreviations of Synthesis and those used so far in Kent or in Barthel's Synthetic Repertory, are printed at the beginning of this book. The full list and all comments follow at the end.

\* a **new standard list of author abbreviations** is presented as well. Letters are used to indicate an author. This allows more combinations and is easier to memorize.

NO single addition has been made without indicating the source. One reference refers to only one author, if possible even to exactly one book or article by him. Most of our references refer to a precise book or article, which will make it even easier to go back to the sources.

The full list of references can be found at the end of this Repertory.

All changes have been annotated with greatest care in order to allow verification. Thousands of **references and synonyms** have been added, especially where a change was made to rather well-known rubrics or remedies. When it was not

possible to indicate the change (e.g. because a mistake had to be deleted), the correction is mentioned in the "**Index of important changes and corrections**" which you will find at the end of this book.

This tremendous work would not have reached this quality without the help of so many Radar-users, homeopathic colleagues and computer technology. In addition to the acknowledgement at the end of the book, I would like to mention already here:

Thanks to Archibel (producer of Radar) and the programming team, headed by Philippe Santantonio: how many times did they succeed, as if by magic, in creating a program to let us do in hours what we thought would take days!

Another ingenious tool they created is the possibility of translating into different languages this Repertory with the help of the computer. Many homeopaths so far were excluded from using a reliable Repertory because of their difficulties with English. This translation will allow them to consult the same fascinating Repertory in their national language. In the near future we expect to have reliable **German, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese translations of Synthesis!** We hope that this new and revolutionary feature will increase communication and collaboration between homeopaths worldwide.

Thanks to all those homeopaths and translators involved in the different national projects. Special thanks to Peter Vint, who has finished the German translation already with the accuracy he is known for and who, thereby, paved the way for all other ongoing translations.

Thanks to the secretaries involved in this job, which at times was monotonous and yet did not allow one minute of distraction. Every change they made was automatically recorded in "history files", printed out the next day to check the work done. I have read through almost every page of them,

which solely from version 4 to version 5 was more than 9 kilometres!

Last but not least thanks to the publishers who went far beyond their task as a publisher. I admire the endless trials they made to investigate the best possible lay-out of the printing. I thank Reinhard Rosé and Peter Vint also for the invaluable input they had in the corrections and creation of the rules. They never left me in peace whenever there was a problem or a question and at the same time took the burden on their shoulders, fully sharing my responsibility.

They have been insisting on the idea of a **Repertory which can be updated**. This is being realized for the German edition which offers a loose-leaf format. Indeed, as you read this today, we are working to increase the information and quality of Synthesis one step further. As soon as the number of changes is significant they will be made available to all of you again. The translations into all national languages will follow at about the same speed.

These are the reasons why Synthesis is a truly world-wide project. It is designed in such a way as to incorporate the efforts of homeopaths of all countries and all languages, be it their personal additions, their work in the literature or their comments and corrections. We centralize all this information and advance together in all languages simultaneously!

This vision embodies probably more than Kent wished for in the phrase quoted on the first page. It is also this perspective that has given me, and undoubtedly many of the collaborators to the project, the strength to go on day by day. It is an uplifting awareness that, in this age, we can create tools for homeopathy which could never be dreamt of before.

Synthesis is based on Kent's Repertory and adds a vast amount of corrections and additions to it. We believe that it adds much more to homeopathy as a whole. The complete concept is described in "Blueprint for a New Repertory" (the chapter at the end). That proposal stands as an open invitation to discuss how

we can structure our homeopathic knowledge for the best, so it may be easily readable, transparent and consistent.

We sincerely hope this instrument may help you in raising your homeopathic efficiency to a new level. After the knowledge of the Materia Medica, the use of the Repertory is the next best friend to let the marvel of homeopathic cure happen once more.

We haven't spared any effort so that this Repertory may help homeopathy "grow brighter".

Dr. Frederik Schroyens  
Gent, Belgium  
First day of the summer, 1993