

## “Hahnemann’s Similimum prescription: without the use of Repertory”

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### Abstract

This article attempts to compare the prescription of Dr. Hahnemann & Dr Adolph Lippe with that of the Similimum derived from the present day Computerised Repertorisation. We studied some cases of Dr. Hahnemann & Dr. Adolph Lippe, that were treated by them and found that even before the introduction of Repertory in Homeopathy the remedy prescribed by them finds place in the top five remedies of the computerised repertorisation table. Today, Repertory is considered to be an indispensable tool in homeopathy. Is it not surprising that Dr.Hahnemann and other stalwarts reached similimum without the use of Computer or Repertory, but, how?

**KEYWORDS:-** Dr.Hahnemann, Dr. Adolph Lippe, Similimum, Cases, Repertory.

When we interview a patient and bring out the crucial details of the sufferings of the patient, we are now left with an uphill task of hunting for the Homeopathic Similimum, on which, depends the resulting cure. Reaching Similimum is truly not an easy task, it needs due diligence and meticulous workup, this task has been simplified with the advancement of computing. Today, we have at our disposal all the Repertories &Materia Medica at a click of a button, to make tasks easier, now we also have mobile apps. But, if we look at yesteryears, Homeopathic physicians had to physically browse through the pages and memorize symptoms and work really hard to reach the Similimum.

This article attempts to compare the prescription of Dr. Hahnemann, Dr Adolph Lippe and the Similimum derived from Computerised Repertorisation. We studied some cases of Dr. Hahnemann, Dr Adolph Lippe, which were treated by them and found that even before the introduction of Repertory in Homeopathy.

**Repertory:-**The word “repertory” means a storehouse, repository, store or collection especially of facts or information.

Repertory is a systematically and logically arranged index to the homoeopathic Materia Medica, which is full of information collected from toxicology, drug proving and clinical experience.(5)

**Origin of the concept of the repertory:-** Hahnemann could also visualize the difficulties which the practitioners would find in selecting the most similar remedy out of many similar. Therefore, he conceived the idea of indexing the Materia Medica logically, which can help a practitioner to find the needed symptoms along with all the corresponding medicines. Such an index can help a physician to find a medicine which covers the maximum symptoms of the patients. This helped the emergence of

concept of Repertorization. Actually the various concepts, nature of homeopathy, and principle of individualization itself made the way for emergence of discipline of Repertory.(5)

*Dr. Ruckert* was appointed by Hahnemann to compile a repertory. After working hard on it for eight years, in 1830 he prepared one, but it was not found upto the mark. Thereafter Hahnemann employed *Jahr* for compiling a repertory and he wrote “If God permits, Jahr will work out the symptom dictionary and I shall contribute what I can.”(5)

**Year of publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> Repertory:-**As early as in 1805 his book *Fragmenta De Viribus Medicamentorum Positivis* contained an index in the second part. Hahnemann also published another short repertory in 1817 in latin.(5)

But after the successful efforts of Drs. Gross, Ruckert and Jahr, *Von Boenninghausen*, the most intimate disciple of Hahnemann made a serious attempt in this direction under Hahnemann’s instruction. His pioneering work *Repertory of Antipsoric Medicines* published in 1832 was not only successful, but it became a progenitor of all the later repertories.(5)

**How does it help a practitioner:-** After taking a case, the physician, especially a beginner, is perplexed by a maze of symptoms. He has to categorize, rearrange and evaluate them in order to construct a totality. Symptoms placed under totality will have to be converted into rubrics. The rubric should be located in the repertory. After further processing, the repertory gives an idea about close running medicines, so that the indicated medicines can be found out.(5)

**Case Discussion of stalwarts: -**We took two cases from Hahnemann cured cases (which were cured on- 1<sup>st</sup>Sept. 1815 & 27<sup>th</sup>Dec. 1815) and one cured case of Adolph Lippe in the year 1851, and repertorised it in Complete Dynamics homeopathic software with Complete Repertory as default repertory.

We took the first case mentioned by Hahnemann, where a 40-year-old woman was suffering from pain in the chest.(1)

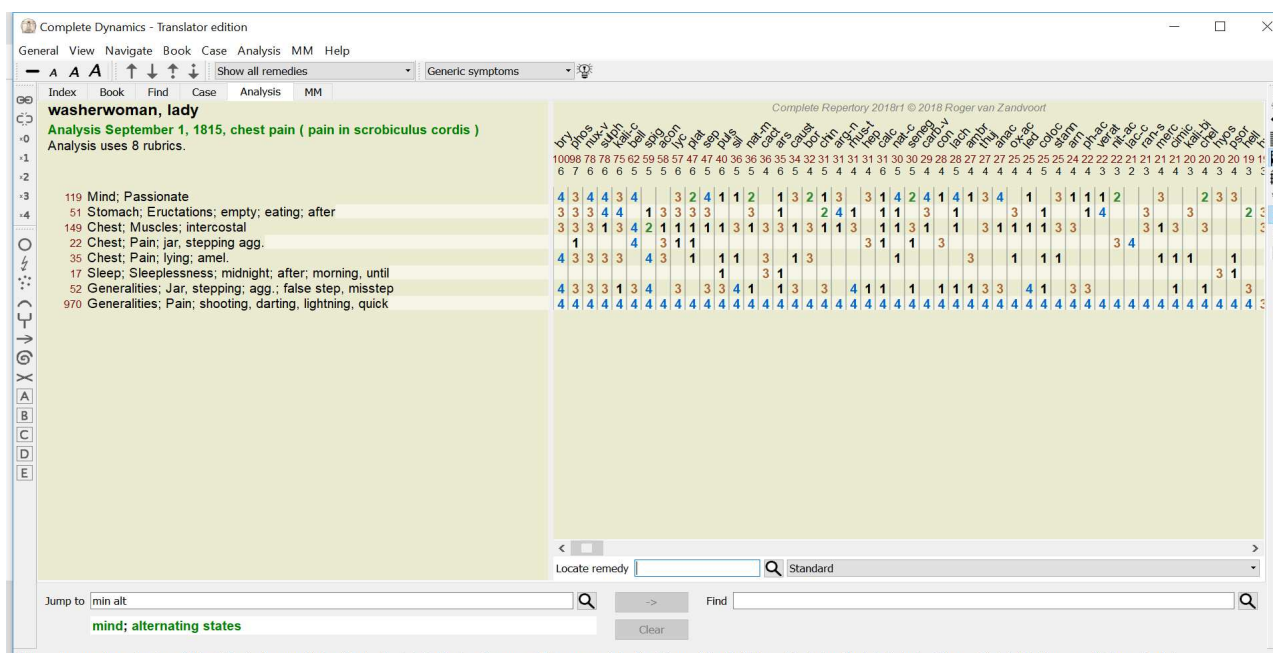
**Case -I** A washerwomen lady about 40 yrs old.( 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.1815 )

1. On any movement, especially at every step, and worst on making a false step, she has a shoot (pain) in the scrobiculus cordis, that comes, as she avers, every time from the left side.
2. When she lies she feels quite well, then she has no pain anywhere, neither in the side nor in the scrobiculus.
3. She cannot sleep after three o'clock in the morning.
4. She relishes her food, but when she has eaten a little she feels sick.
5. Then the water collects in her mouth and runs out of it, like the water brash.
6. She has frequently empty eructations after every meal.
7. Her temper is passionate, disposed to anger.
8. Whenever the pain is severe she is covered with perspiration. The catamenia were quite regular, a fortnight since.(1)

**Hahnemann’s prescription:-** *Bryonia Alba*.(Full drop of the pure juice of bryonia root)

**Repertorisation of the same case though software:- Complete Dynamics, Repertory:-Complete repertory.**

**Figure-1“Bryonia case”**



**Repertorial Result:-** After repertorisation with the given symptoms in the case, the first medicine which pops up as leading remedy is BRYONIA ALBA.

**Hahnemann’s Prescription Result:** - Patient did not return. Case was cured as confirmed by Hahnemann's friend who visited her house to see her prognosis. (Friend E)(1)

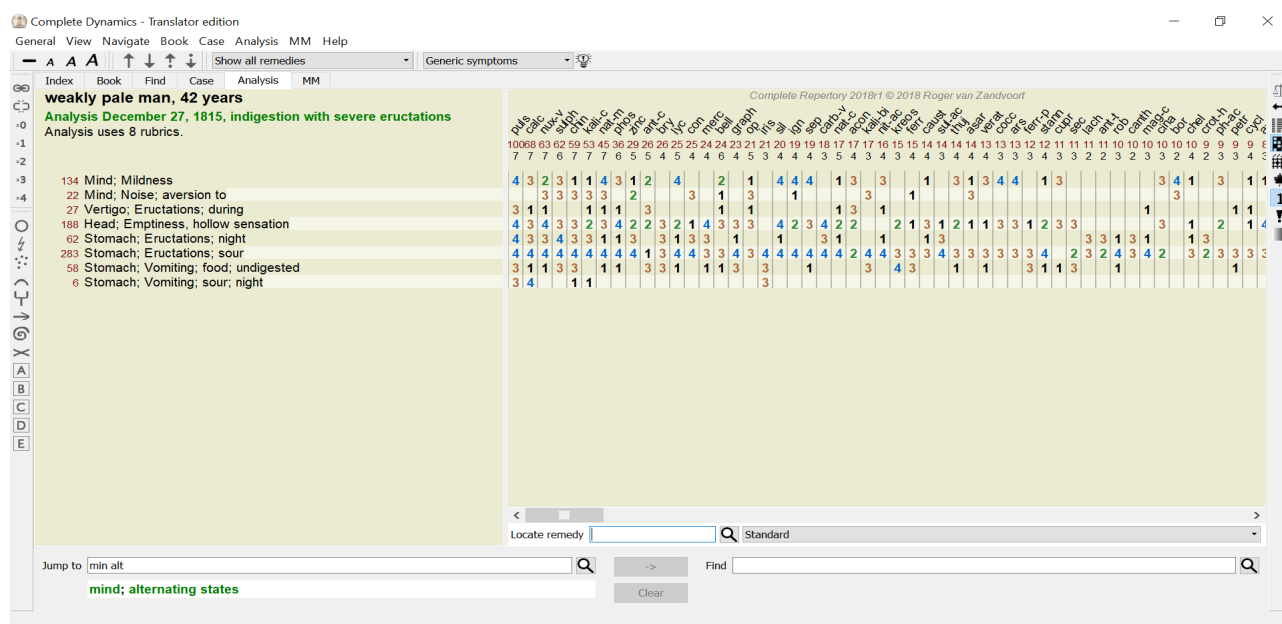
**Case- IIA** weakly, pale man of 42 years,(27th December, 1815).

1. The first evening he became, without manifest cause, sick and giddy, with much eructation.
2. The following night (about 2 AM) sour vomiting.
3. The subsequent nights severe eructation.
4. Today also sick; eructation of fetid and sourish taste.
5. He felt as if the food lay crude and undigested in his stomach.
6. In his head he felt vacant, hollow and confused, and as if sensitive therein.
7. The least noise was painful to him.
8. He is of a mild, soft, patient disposition.(1)

**Hahnemann’s prescription :-** Pulsatilla(Half a drop of the quadrillionth of a strong drop of pulsatilla)

**Repertorisation of the same case though software:- Complete Dynamics, Repertory:-Complete repertory.**

**Figure-2“Pulsatilla case”**



**Repertorial Result:-** After repertorisation with the given symptoms in the case, the first medicine which pops up as leading remedy is PULSATILLA.

**Hahnemann’s Prescription Result:** - This was done in the evening, the next day the patient was free from all ailments, his digestion was restored and a week thereafter, as Hahnemann told him he remained free from complaint and was quite well.(1)

**Case-III:-**The patient was an emaciated, sharp-faced German, a tailor, about 50 years old.

(In the year 1851)

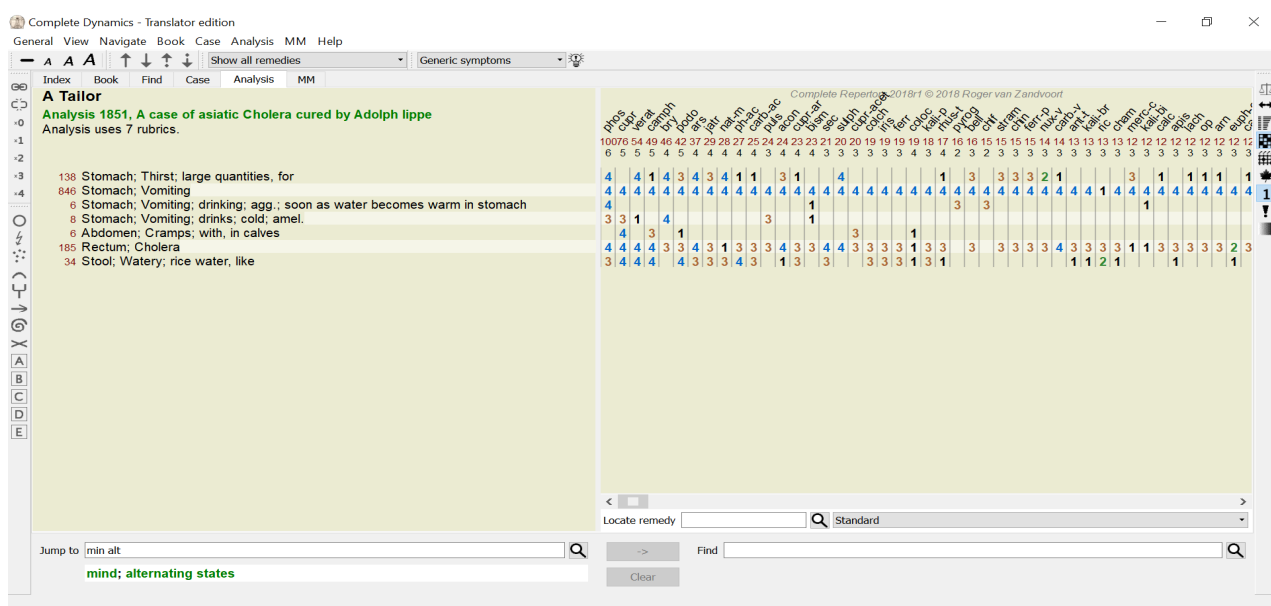
1. continued to vomit and to be purged, with violent cramp at short intervals.
2. rice-watery discharges.
3. Thirst was very great; he had to drink large quantities of cold water, and felt better afterwards, till the water became warm in his stomach in from fifteen to twenty minutes, and then he had to vomit it up again, to be relieved of this exhausting painful vomiting and thirst by drinking another large quantity of water.(2)

**Adolph Lippe’s prescription** On the basis of, *Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, Symptom 745: "In the most terrible agonies he vainly tried to vomit; only the drinking of cold water relieved."* - **PHOSPHORUS**

*19m about 9 p.m. with the order to repeat it every two hours untill he was relieved.*

**Repertorisation of the same case though software:-** Complete Dynamics, Repertory:-Complete repertory.

**Figure-3“Phosphorus case”**



**Repertorial Result:-** After repertorisation with the given symptoms in the case, the first medicine which pops up as leading remedy is PHOSPHORUS.

**Hahnemann’s Prescription Result:** - On the next day he was rapidly improving.(2)

**Discussion:** It is obvious from the above-mentioned cases treated by Dr. Hahnemann and Dr Adolph Lippe that their prescription was the same as through the process of computerised Repertorisation which they prescribed at the time of their practice.

Today, Repertory is considered a very useful tool in the homeopathic world. It helps in reaching the Similimum and in today's time, every homeopathic physician is dependent on repertory. But, in this article we already saw that Dr. Hahnemann and Dr Adolph Lippe had solved many difficult cases without use of any repertory even before the repertory's invention. Dr. Hahnemann mentions in the Organon of medicine in Aphorism 3,18,22 and 71 He guides us about the method of matching the symptom picture of the man in disease with the medicine picture in Materia Medica. Therefore, instead of solely depending on Repertorisation it is imperative to look into Materia Medica and develop right skills for making the final prescription.

In the PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH/HINDI EDITION OF COMPLETE REPERTORY 2011 the author Roger van Zandvoort says “We feel that it is our duty to give suggestions, as it is our duty not to pretend handing out decisive leads only. Besides using the right rubrics for your patients, *checking the Materia Medica is part of the process of finding the similimum, and part of the homeopath's obligation.*”

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