

Minton's Uterine Therapeutics - A Book Review

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Abstract: *The work "Uterine Therapeutics" by Dr. Henry Minton, is a masterpiece work on the female uterine diseases, among his previous works on female reproductive system. This work is a meticulous compilation of all the symptoms related to uterine disorders. The book can be an easy access for cases that are rich in common symptoms, clinically diagnosed cases as well as short cases with a few symptoms. The book in itself is a marvel piece which can be a dependable book of references for beginners as well as practitioners.*

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1. Introduction

The "Uterine Therapeutics" is a useful monograph on the problems of menstruation and other related functions. It is a result of 16 years of patient study and clinical practice of Dr. Minton. A large part of the symptomatology of the work was published in the "American Journal of Homeopathic Materia Medica", during the year 1874 - 75.

Author: Henry Minton.

Year of Publication: 1883.

Edition/Publication: 1995 Reprint Edition / B. Jain Publishers (Pvt) Ltd.

Aim of the Book:

The aim of this repertory is to collect and arrange in a systematic and convenient form for ready reference all those symptoms of Materia Medica that have any direct or specific bearing upon the subject of uterine disorders.

Source Books of the Repertory:

Minton has quoted Dr. Hovav in Curare, Dr. Hughes in Glonoine and even Dr. Hahnemann in Dictamnus. Other than their masterpiece he had also referred large number of books, records, journals, magazines and pamphlets for the making of this repertory.

Philosophical Background:

The philosophy on which the construction and plan of this repertory is based are:

Doctrine of Concomitants and Complete Symptoms: Like most of the Regional repertories, Minton's therapeutics also emphasizes on the importance of concomitants and complete symptoms.

Doctrine of Causation and Time: Anyone who has gone through this book must have seen that each section of this repertory has a separate rubric of causation and time under it. This book gives importance to both these factors along with location, sensation modality and concomitant in dealing with a symptom.

Evaluation of Remedies:

Minton's Therapeutics also incorporates evaluation of remedies in its construction. The gradation is based on the frequency and intensity of the symptoms recorded.

Clinical Rubrics:

Being a Clinical Repertory this book has a record of a number of clinical conditions along with the group of medicines. This serves as a necessary aid in cases where there is advanced pathology or in paucity of symptom.

Plan and Construction:

The arrangement of this repertory is based on "The Homeopathic Therapeutics of Diarrhoea" by James B. Bell. The credit for giving this book its present shape goes to the Editor, Dr. A. R. Thomas. The Repertory starts with the quotes of Bacon and Horace.

It is followed by the content under following headings:

Preface: It was written on September 1, 1883 in Brooklyn, New York. It is the story of how this book came into existence with a brief introduction of this book.

Dedication: It is dedicated to his friend E. T. Richardson.

List of Remedies: This is an alphabetical record of all the medicines in this book with their abbreviations. The list includes 178 medicines from Aconite to Zingiber, though the actual number of medicines given is 177 (Actaea racemosa and Cimicifuga have been repeated).

Part I (Materia Medica): This contains alphabetical arrangement of Medicines with their indications under the following headings -

- Menstruation.
- Before Menstruation.
- During Menstruation.
- After Menstruation.
- Amenorrhoea
- Metrorrhagia
- Lochia
- Leucorrhoea
- Concomitants
- Aggravation

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- Amelioration.

The last paragraph under each remedy deals with the constitution and adaptability of the remedy in brief. The medicines are arranged alphabetically.

Part II (Repertory) – This section contains the Repertory Proper under the following headings –

1) **Menstruation:** This section includes specifications of menses under:

- Time and quantity of discharge.
- Character of menstrual discharge.
- Before menstruation.
- During menstruation.
- After menstruation

Basically this section has record of symptoms of menses. This section is very much similar in its content to the rubric "Menses" in other general repertories.

2) **Amenorrhoea:** This section includes the rubrics:

- Cause and Concomitants: It includes the causes most frequently associated with amenorrhoea along with the chief accompaniments.

3) **Abortion - Miscarriage:** This section includes the rubrics:

- Cause
- Character of the discharge.
- Character of the pain.
- Mental condition.
- Metrorrhagia.
- Character of the discharge.
- Concomitants

This section gives rubrics describing the specifics of abortion. But the author has given Metrorrhagia under Abortion and not under Menstruation.

a) **Lochia:** It includes:

- Peculiarities of the discharge.
- Concomitant symptoms.

b) **Leucorrhoea:** It includes:

- Character of the discharge.
- Cause, Time, Aggravation and Amelioration of the discharge.
- Concomitant symptoms.

c) **General concomitants:** This section covers the person as a whole from **Mind** to **Generalities**

- Mind and mood.
- Sleep.
- Vertigo.
- Headache.
- Head.
- Eyes.
- Ears.
- Nose.
- Face.
- Mouth.
- Throat.

- Appetite.
- Eructation.
- Hiccough.
- Water brash.
- Nausea.
- Vomiting.
- Stomach.
- Abdomen.
- Anus.
- Rectum.
- Stool.
- Urination.
- Urine.
- Sexual organs.
- Sexual desire.
- Mammae
- Nipples.
- Chest.
- Respiration.
- Cough.
- Heart.
- Back.
- Extremities.
- Skin.
- Persons - remedies especially suitable for.
- Generalities.

This section is a real marvel of this repertory. It includes separately and with details all parts of the body and their symptoms. It even includes parts of the female genitalia viz. Labia, Pudendum, Vulva, Vagina, Uterus, Ovaries both, Right, left etc. All the structural changes which could not be covered in the previous sections have been dealt with in this section.

Arrangement of Rubrics:

- 1) Rubrics in each chapter are in Alphabetical order.
- 2) Sub - rubrics are given after an indentation followed by the medicines.
- 3) Sub sub - rubrics are given with more indentation followed by a comma after each part.

Index: At the end of the book Index has been given which has the sections and rubrics arranged alphabetically under it. This section facilitates the search of needed rubric.

Typographies Used:

Two types of Typographies have been used in the whole book.

- 1) *Italics*
 - 2) Ordinary Roman.
- Medicines are indicated in Part I (Materia Medica) and Part II (Repertory) with same typographies.

Working Out a Case Using Minton's Therapeutics:

The symptoms of the case to be worked out should be arranged in the following manner -

- Complaint
- Character of the discharge
- Cause
- Modalities

- Concomitant
- Generalities

In this way a complete picture of the case is formed, which can now be repertorised to choose the simillimum. The final choice can be confirmed using the Materia medica given in first part of the book.

Scope and Limitations of the Repertory

Being a Regional Repertory, the scope of this repertory is for -

- 1) Cases lacking in Generals, but rich in Common symptoms.
- 2) Cases with clinical diagnoses.
- 3) Short cases with a few symptoms.

Howsoever, the rubrics given are result of clinical observations and so their use is limited to specific number of cases.

Merits of the Repertory:

- 1) It is a very elaborate and detailed work covering most of the symptoms. It contains rubrics related to females at one place, and so serves as a quick bedside reference.
- 2) The section "Persons remedies especially for" is a masterpiece and covers most of the constitutions. It also serves as a confirmation stamp on the choice of remedy.
- 3) Concomitant symptoms of each chapter are placed along with followed by general concomitant chapter in the end which contains symptoms of person as a whole.
- 4) The General concomitant chapter contains the symptoms relating to the whole body and mind. It in itself forms a complete record of general symptoms.

Shortcomings of the Repertory:

- 1) The number of medicines is limited.
- 2) Being a clinical repertory, it is not complete and is mainly used for reference works.
- 3) Same symptom is repeated under different rubrics or headings and again in concomitants.
- 4) Mental condition is specifically given under "Abortion" only and not under "Amenorrhoea" or "Leucorrhoea". Though it is mentioned under General concomitants.
- 5) Only: "Lochia" is given, no other complaint of pregnancy or lying - in - period is covered.
- 6) Metrorrhagia is given under Abortion and not in Menses.
- 7) Number of Clinical rubrics is also very limited.

In spite of the above shortcomings Minton's Therapeutics is a complete repertory in itself. The repertory can be used in most of the present female diseases with favorable results.

2. Conclusion

This book of Repertory having Materia Medica alongside furnishes a great information about the symptoms and its related rubrics related to female uterine complaints all under in a compacted roof. It helps in covering the constitutional make - up of the patient as well. In spite of having limited clinical rubrics, this book can serve as a ready reference for the beginners in making a precise and quick prescription.

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