

Souvenir...

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MAYURBHANJ HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, BARIPADA

A BRIEF ACCOUNT ON "INDEX OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PURE MATERIA MEDICA (SYMPTOM REGISTER)"

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Introduction :

The Encyclopedia of *Pure Materia Medica* was an unique work of Dr. T. F. Allen. It was published in the form of 10 volumes between 1874 and 1880. According to Dr. T. F. Allen, the sources from which this compilation has been made are :

1. Experiment made upon healthy individuals for the purpose of noting the effects of drugs.
2. Effect observed after poisonous doses (accidentally or maliciously administered).
3. Symptoms (cautiously admitted) observed in the sick after the administration of the drug.
4. Very few symptoms, which have never been observed as effects of drug action, but which have been so repeatedly verified clinically, that they clearly indicate the remedy; these are designated by a small cipher after the symptom.

In this work Dr. Allen was greatly helped by Dr. Richard Hughes, Dr. Caroll Dunham, Dr. A. D. Lippe.

Encyclopedia consisted of 691 medicines arranged alphabetically from A-Z.

In the year 1880 an Index to Encyclopedia of *Pure Materia Medica* was published, which was also written Dr. T. F. Allen, which was known as the "Allen's Symptom Register". This index was published in the form of two volumes (XI & XII volume of Encyclopedia of *Pure Materia Medica*).

Philosophical Background :

Dr. Allen was of the opinion that the general anatomical divisions in our *Materia Medica* are not satisfactory as a basis of classifying symptoms.

Dr. Allen has written "There is no more reason for grouping the main anatomical divisions of the body in an index to our symptomatology than in arranging a dictionary on an encyclopedia by topics, indeed there is much less reason for so doing."

So the work may be regarded as simply an index to the encyclopedia of *Pure Materia Medica*.

Plan of Construction :

The repertory is strictly arranged in alphabetical manner, first the part affected

followed by the sensations, condition or modified.

e.g.	Ear	-	Part
	Aching	-	Sensation
	Evening	-	Modify
	Air sensation of in	-	Sensation

In the chest, abdomen, back and other parts, the numerous symptoms of the sides are placed together under a special sub-division of the general part and when the particular side is specified the letter "r" or "L" follows the drug.

e.g. Chest

Middle aching

Sides beating : Thu (r)

Cutting : Upa (r)

Heat at 1 p.m. and afterwards : Coca

Pain Cal : (r)

Stitches : Bry. (L) etc.

Sensations : Sensation of similar kind and also sensation of contracted type have been grouped together under the various headings and are well supplied with numerous cross references.

The reason for arranging the sensations in such a manner is that, patients as well as provers vary in their ability to distinguish sensations, and what may seem to be only a sharp pain, may be another be distinguished as a cutting or sticking, or may even be recognized as composed of several distinct and peculiar sensations. e.g. cutting pain, cutting sensation, cutting of all which mean the same thing, all of them have been placed under **cutting**.

Under each sensation will be found its conditions and peculiarities. The conditions first given and arranged into three sections viz.

- General conditions : First time than circumstances
- Conditions of aggravations, first time than circumstances.
- Conditions of ameliorations, first time than circumstances.

A sensation conditioned does not contains the drugs, which are listed in unconditioned sensations but in aggravation and amelioration section such drugs are also mentioned which are present in the list of unconditioned sensations, e.g. Drugs mentioned under the heading aching in the morning are not found under the general 'aching' but the drugs metioned and 'aching <or>' are always present in general 'aching'.

Peculiar sensations are arranged alphabetically after the unmodified sensation. Among these peculiar sensations will be found all modifications of the original sensation such as course and direction and altercations etc. Much explanatory has been omitted, but only when it was of no value in defining the sensation.

'Peculiarities' respectively.

- Rubrics are printed in BOLD CAPITALS.
- Sub-rubrics are printed in bold roman.
- - - Sub-sub-rubrics are printed in ordinary roman.

Gradation of Drugs : - Four types of gradation have been used in the work viz.

- First grade - CAPITALS
- Second grade - Italics
- Third grade - Roman
- Fourth grade - Roman in parenthesis (doubtful origin)

Miscellaneous :

1. It is an index of "Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Mdica" consisting of all the drugs except Houat's "provings" of

- Anantherum
- Bufo.
- Cubeba
- Curare
- Kali iodatum
- Piper nig.
- Sarracenia

and Wolf's proving of Thuja.

Above mentioned information have been omitted because it has been demonstrated that they are untrustworthy as pathogenesis.

2. Although there were only 691 medicines in "Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica" but this index contains the list of 820 medicines.

By Timothy F. Allen