

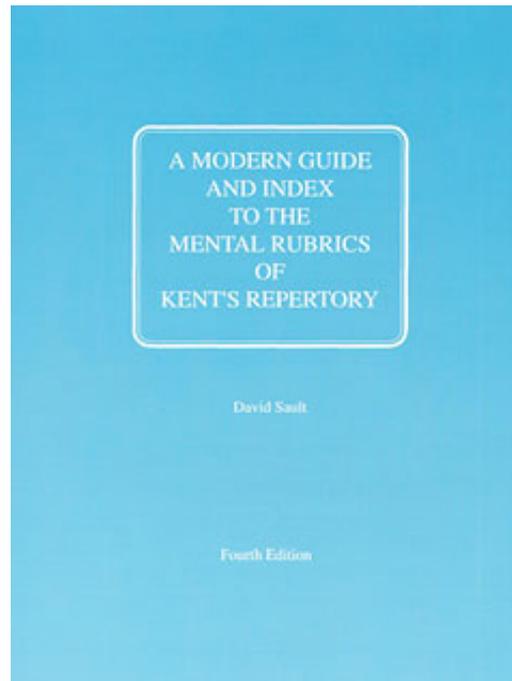
David Sault

A Modern Guide and Index to the Mental Rubrics of Kent's Repertory

Reading excerpt

[A Modern Guide and Index to the Mental Rubrics of Kent's Repertory](#)
of [David Sault](#)

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Introduction

As a student of the Yorkshire School of Homeopathy I experienced the difficulties that every homeopathic student must go through in learning to use Kent's repertory, namely:

1. The enormous waste of time involved in searching for rubrics without knowing the layout of the book.
2. The frustration of not being able to find a rubric that matched a symptom, or worse still, not being able to find it again having found it once in the past, simply through not knowing what other rubrics the book contained with a similar meaning to the one found.
3. The inaccuracies incurred due to the language. The book was written over a hundred years ago and many of the words (in the mind section in particular) have changed in meaning since then. The only answer, of course, is to use the dictionary that Kent most likely used, ie. a late 19th century Webster.
4. It would ease the process of gradually assimilating a knowledge of the repertory and save a lot of wasted energy if cross-references were introduced; not only of the existing rubrics, but using modern terms as well.

I was struck by the advice given by Margaret Tyler in the 'Repertorising' section p.1433.

"For the mental symptoms particularly, it is well to go constantly through the Repertory (Mind-section), and to master all that it presents; and to make cross references; and to be sure that you get the correct rubric; and often combine two rubrics that practically amount to the same thing and yet do not give quite the same list of drugs. As, for instance, *aversion to company* and *better alone* may not be quite the same thing; and yet it is difficult to sort them. Again, *worse in the dark* and *fear of darkness* are difficult to fix correctly in many cases"

And later discussing General symptoms:

"And once again, be sure that you have your very rubric; and if necessary combine two rubrics that work out practically as synonyms, and yet do not present quite the same list of drugs.

This of course is excellent advice but useful only if you know where to find the other rubrics related to the one you have chosen.

To this end I started making lists of rubrics that were related to each other and in the summer of 1990 began to put them into an indexed order. I grossly underestimated the task; over 60,000 words and 700 hours later I am still correcting the listings and entering cross-references. This is the third complete revision of the work.

The aim has not been merely to produce a word-index; there are excellent word indexes already available for Kent. I have included many features not to be found in any of the word indexes such as:

Explanations of rubric meanings

Cross-references

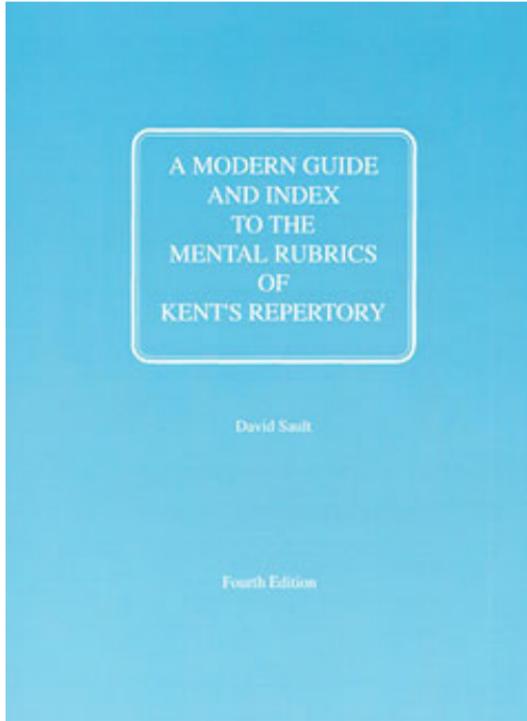
Modern terms

Groupings of the rubrics according to synonyms to show you where to look next when you haven't found what you wanted or if you want to combine two rubrics with a very close meaning as suggested by Margaret Tyler.

By organising the rubrics in this way I hope to take a lot of leg-work out of searching the repertory.

Introduction to the Second Edition

The work has been completely revised and greatly expanded for this second edition; there are in all about 700 additions. Some of these are completely new entries, most are new cross references and there are about 50 or so additions to existing entries. Some of the previous entries have also had rubrics deleted and others still have been deleted altogether.



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