

SA869557

Late Victorian Dr Richardson's Magneto Galvanic Battery Medallion

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA869557

Date of manufacture: 1880

Dimensions

Height = 4 cm (1.6")

Width = 4 cm (1.6")

Depth = 0.2 cm (0.1")

Description

For sale, a Late Victorian Dr Richardson's Magneto Galvanic Battery. This fascinating Victorian quack medicine device is formed as a medallion comprised of a mixture of metals including nickel, zinc, copper and brass. The medal has concentric rings of metal with a series of circular discs of metal on the inner circle formed around a cross in the centre. The cross is engraved to the front with, "Richardson's Magneto Galvanic Battery" with lightning bolt motifs in the remaining space to denote the healing qualities of the electrical effects produced by wearing this medical aid when it is activated through the body's perspiration. The reverse is further engraved with, "Patented & Registered in US, GB, France & Italy etc and with similar surrounding motifs. This US invention was initially patented in December of 1879 by an Edward P Caldwell of Philadelphia although the marketing suggests that a New York Company named AM Richardson & Co seem to have been the namesake and main distributors of the medallion with some advertising stating "an Agent wanted in every town". The original patent is careful to say nothing of the healing qualities of this device but rather focuses o...

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