Finch & Co



VICTORIAN SURGEONS POST MORTEM STEEL PERCUSSION HAMMER

A VICTORIAN SURGEONS POST MORTEM STEEL PERCUSSION HAMMER
MARKED 'AITKEN YORK'
CIRCA 1860-70
SIZE: 22CM LONG – 8¾ INS LONG

LITERATURE

19TH CENTURY PERCUSSION HAMMERS TOOK MANY FORMS BUT ALL OF THEM WERE MORE OR LESS STANDARDISED BY HENRY VERNON OF THE GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL IN 1858. THE INSTRUMENT MAKERS AITKEN WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1820 AND ARE KNOWN TO HAVE MADE VERNON'S NEW INTRODUCTION IN 1858. AITKEN WERE TRADING AT 16 RAILWAY STREET IN YORK FROM 1861 TO 1876.

CORPSES FELLED ON THE BATTLE FIELD COULD SELDOM BE RETRIEVED BEFORE 'RIGOR MORTIS' HAD SET IN AND VARIOUS INSTRUMENTS FOR USE IN STRAIGHTENING THE CORPSE FOR BURIAL WERE NECESSARY TO THE FIELD SURGEON INCLUDING A STEEL CHISEL, A SPINE-WRENCH AND A STEEL PERCUSSION HAMMER.