Abstract

In colonial Lima free mulattoes and other racial mixed groups became indispensable as barbers and surgeons to degree because of their infamous racial origin, although that was not an obstacle to freely acquire training at the hospitals, where anybody could be taught and trained as barber or surgeon under the guidance of a physician. Therefore, many mulattoes were able to practice this profession after passing such point that those endeavors were almost monopolized by them. College education forbade them to obtain some examinations supervised by the city council. Only one mulatto, José Manuel Valdés, obtained in 1795 a royal license for a degree at San Marcos University, although by then requirements were already less severe and the path was clear for mixed races to practice professions previously banned to them.

Keywords
Barber, hospitals, Lima, mulattoes, university, surgery.