



From Popular Medicine to Medical Populism: Doctors, Healers, and Public Power in Costa Rica, 1800-1940

By Steven Palmer

Duke University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, From Popular Medicine to Medical Populism: Doctors, Healers, and Public Power in Costa Rica, 1800-1940, Steven Palmer, "From Popular Medicine to Medical Populism" presents the history of medical practice in Costa Rica from the late colonial era - when none of the fifty thousand inhabitants had access to a titled physician, pharmacist, or midwife - to the 1940s, when the figure of the qualified medical doctor was part of everyday life for many of Costa Rica's nearly one million citizens. It is the first book to chronicle the history of all healers, both professional and popular, in a Latin American country during the national period. Steven Palmer breaks with the view of popular and professional medicine as polar opposites - where popular medicine is seen as a representative of the authentic local community and as synonymous with oral tradition and religious and magical beliefs and professional medicine as advancing neocolonial interests through the work of secular, trained academicians. Arguing that there was significant and formative overlap between these two forms of medicine, Palmer shows that the relationship between practitioners of each was marked by co-existence, complementarity, and dialogue as often as it...

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