sources, with a bibliographic citation of the source following each heading discussion.

The middle section between overview and resources is tailored to the subject. For example, “breast cancer” (four pages) is divided into overview, symptoms, staging, treatment methods, lumpectomy versus mastectomy, adjuvant therapy, breast reconstruction, long-term survival, and resources. Resources include organizations, books, pamphlets, and additional articles and vary with the topic (p. 71–4).

Another example is “gallstone disease” (four pages), which is divided into overview, gallstones removal, risks of dieting, surgical treatment, nonsurgical treatment, drug treatment, and resources, which include organizations, pamphlets, and related articles (p. 239–42).

The topic arrangement enables the reader to locate the specific aspects easily. The length of the discussion allows for more than a brief description. The resources section supplies citations and leads for further research. PHR supplies sufficient information in easily understandable terms without overloading the reader.

For the second edition, one suggestion is to adopt a looseleaf format that would allow for periodic updates. The sources on some topics are not too current; e.g., Reye’s syndrome’s most current source and resources date is 1989 (p. 503–5). As mentioned earlier, source dates range from roughly 1985 to 1991. Greater currency and coverage could be achieved with periodic additions, as appropriate.

Another suggestion is to include missing major conditions such as emphysema and bronchitis, which appear in neither the topics nor the index. Perhaps a broad topic could be added for chronic lung disease, for which the index has only a short reference under “Exercise” (p. 215).

The following books are easy to read and somewhat comparable to PHR. All sell for less than $50.00.

1. The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine, which its dust jacket describes as an A–Z reference guide to more than 5,000 medical terms including symptoms, diseases, drugs, and treatments. PHR has more extensive coverage on the 148 topics that it treats [1].

2. The Johns Hopkins Medical Handbook, the 100 major medical disorders of people older than age fifty [2]. Unlike PHR, this handbook’s coverage is restricted by age.

3. The Wellness Encyclopedia, a comprehensive family resource for safeguarding health and preventing illness [3]. Here, the focus is on the various aspects of wellness.

All of the above books plus PHR are authoritative and readable. However, their scopes differ. For well-rounded coverage, librarians should choose the assortment that best serves their library users within the confines of their budgets.

Public Health Reporter, while relatively expensive, fills the important need for organized and lengthy coverage in one volume and includes specialized medical issues, impeccable sources, and a resources section for further research. This new Gale publication has a sturdy, handsome hardcover and large clear pages. A first edition, it would be a valuable and useful addition to consumer medical collections in any type of library.

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References

2. The Johns Hopkins medical hand-


Doody’s Health Sciences Book Review Journal seeks to provide “comprehensive, authoritative, easily accessible, and timely bibliographic, quantitative, and critical information about newly published health sciences books” (p. i). The review of each title includes a bibliographic citation indicating author affiliation, a physical description, primary and secondary audience information, and, in many cases, a critical review. Of the 250 titles listed in the first issue, 134 titles were critically reviewed. All reviewers are subject specialists, the majority of whom are affiliated with academic medical centers. Most reviews include a numerical rating based on a 100-point scale, which is calculated from a fifteen-point questionnaire submitted by the reviewer. A title-author index is included at the end of the issue. There are more than sixty categories of reviews. In addition, a list called “Other Titles of Interest” follows each category, suggesting related books reviewed in other categories. Book reviews appear in Doody’s Journal two to six months after publication of the title.

Since the demise of the Technical Book Review Index in 1988, professional health sciences journals have been the only consistent source of reviews of new health sciences publications. A resource that brings together information about new releases has been long overdue. Doody’s Journal provides this infor-
Information in a timely fashion, making it particularly attractive to the collection development librarian.

At a subscription rate of $195.00 per year (6 issues), the journal is expensive compared to other professional library journals. Judging from the first issue, however, the quality and the unique content of this publication may justify the cost.

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<td>The Medical Library Association has endorsed <em>Doody's Health Sciences Book Review Journal</em>, and MLA members may order the journal at 20% off the subscription price.</td>
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