

# Dominican opens a medical library

HILDA opened her doors for business Monday at Dominican Hospital.

An acronym for Health Information Library of the Dominican Auxiliary, HILDA is a public service project of the auxiliary designed to give the public access to easy-to-comprehend medical information.

The small library next to the medical staff library in the Dominican Hospital annex, behind the chapel, is open to anyone wishing to do research on medical problems or treatments. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Browsing is free but borrowers must pay a \$10-a-year fee.

Hospital officials said the idea for a consumer health library originated with Santa Cruz obstetrician Dr. Joseph Anzalone.

"An informed patient is a safer patient," Dr. Anzalone said. "From a doctor's perspective, the patient who's well informed about his or her condition or health is much easier for the doctor to care for."

Dr. Anzalone adds that HILDA will most of all benefit patients, by helping them learn more about their health and so be able to assume the responsibility of caring for themselves.

The library contains books, periodicals, audio tapes and other material prepared for the general public. It also offers computerized literature searches through the National Library of Medicine as well as clipping files and a physicians' directory.

When Dr. Anzalone made his proposal, the hospital turned to the auxiliary for help in financ-

ing it, and a committee was set up by Dominican Hospital president Sister Josephine Sullivan. Its chairman was Lee Anne Durkin, associate director of nursing; serving on it were Drs. Gordon Lee and Hans Dibbern, members of the medical staff library committee; medical librarian Merle Ochs; nurse Roberta Lampson; Charles Atkins, retired Santa Cruz Library director; Al Castagnola, Dominican Hospital Foundation executive director; and Marge Poe, a past president of the Dominican Auxiliary and a retired librarian.

"Dominican presently has the most extensive medical library in the entire Monterey Bay area," adds Dr. Art Vedder, chairman of the medical staff library committee. "We, the medical community, have an obligation to the people of this area to disseminate as much information as we can regarding preventive health care, and we need to educate people about medical problems they have. We can do this by supplying materials of less technical nature than the medical books and journals which medical professionals normally use."