items. You can automate line-item inclusion of sales tax according to the product or service being sold, have *M.Y.O.B.* calculate sales discounts, and use the program as a point-of-sale system.

M.Y.O.B. eschews the manually-invoked pop-up "pick list", in favor of a system that presents you with matching choices (or the lack thereof) when you type information into data fields. It's a choice that the developers obviously gave some though to, but we think the addition of "auto-fill" abilities to augment this feature would be a good idea. We'd also like to see the graphical chart-of-accounts screen be amended to presented the numeric account groupings in their correct order.

Technical support is free for thirty days. After that, you can purchase support at a price of $79 for one year, and $119 for double the length of time. Since there's no payroll module to update, this may sound out of line when compared with the competition's prices, but the costs include annual program updates, and a newsletter. The recommended source for supplies is Deluxe.

M.Y.O.B. imports and exports delimited ASCII files, and although the procedure isn't exactly easy to set up, at least you know that you won't find yourself and your data isolated from the rest of the world. Add everything else to some of the best reporting functions you're likely to find anywhere, and *M.Y.O.B.* is a real winner. Even if you use *Windows* part time, you should consider it.

Peachtree Accounting for Windows
Peachtree Software

Two years ago, we reviewed a product called *Bookkeeping By Design*. At the time, it was a pioneer in *Windows*-based accounting software, and based on a strong reporting function, reasonably solid support for *D*ynamic *D*ata *E*xchange, and generally good functionality, we gave it one of those "conditional on continued development . . . " endorsements.

Since then, the program has been bought by Peachtree Software, renamed twice, augmented with support for *O*bject *L*inking and *E*mbedding, and bundled with an on-line training and documentation system based on an (undocumented) runtime version of Lotus Development Corporation's *SmarText*. Well, that qualifies as continued development, alright. Verdict? *Peachtree Accounting for Windows* is now a serious product from one of the early PC-based accounting vendors, and will do the job. It also has a decidedly weak interface that does nothing so much as conjure up memories of what has always made accounting software a chore to deal with. It'll do the job, and well, but when compared to any of the other products in this review, the flow of work within *Peachtree Accounting for Windows* is just too frustrating.

In spots, *Peachtree Accounting for Windows* shows some unusual flexibility. Users can decide for themselves whether transactions should be posted in real time or manually-invoked batch mode, for example, and whether to use cash-based or accrual accounting standards. *Peachtree Accounting for Windows*'s modeless operation makes viewing and changing any type of information pertinent to a customer or vendor a snap (see figure 6), and the program makes selecting from the various pick lists that drive accounting software very easy; just click the secondary mouse button to pop up a field-relevant roster of choices.

As with earlier versions of the product, *Peachtree Accounting for Windows* chooses to ignore a convention found in most *Windows* software that drives many DOS converts to distraction; here, the

<ENTER> key does not immediately save information and close your current dialog box! Of course, this is less of an asset than we judged it to be in 1990. There are plenty of people who might be migrating to *Peachtree Accounting for Windows* from positions already deeply involved in *Windows* conventions, and now, these should be followed in the interest of continuity. This is not our only environmental concern with *Peachtree Accounting for Windows*; on-line help is only minimally context-sensitive, when you display a form it shows up in an unattractive Courier-like font instead of allowing you access to *Windows*' more