somatic mutations. These include the detection of chromosomal abnormalities resulting in fetal deaths and indicator phenotypes such as Downs syndrome. Gene mutations can be detected by biochemical approaches such as one or two dimensional electrophoresis and also by determining sentinel phenotypes such as haemophiliacs or patients with muscular dystrophy.

The book is a useful, well referenced report for those currently using such methods and those wishing to gain more information. It is to be updated as more knowledge and experience is gained and it is recommended reading for those interested in monitoring for environmental health.

DIANA ANDERSON

Toxicity and safe handling of rubber chemicals. (Pp 345, £70.00.) Birmingham: British Rubber Manufacturers Association, 1985.

The British Rubber Manufacturers Association Code of Practice has a clearly stated purpose "to secure the health and safety of people at work in the rubber industry." The code has been produced for, and largely by, the British rubber industry but this is the second edition and experience of the first edition was that rubber industries in other countries found a great deal in it of value to them.

For people outside the rubber industry it is most important as an illustration of what can be done when trades unions and suppliers as well as managements and occupational health specialists get together to do something for the benefit of the industry in which they are all engaged.

The publication has three parts. Part 1, after a useful short section in which there are notes on toxicity and on occupational exposure limits, defines the categorisation used in the second part and sets out the association's recommendations for good practice in handling rubber chemicals.

The meat is in the second section which comprises data sheets on each of 181 chemicals used in the industry. The collaborative approach of an enterprise of this nature should ensure internal consistency, particularly in the notes on the hazard of each material and of the precaution needed in handling and the way to deal with accidents. Especially helpful to the industry must be the recommendations of occupational

exposure limits for chemicals not listed elsewhere that the association health committee has put forward.

The third part is a detailed and comprehensive definition of the occupational hygiene procedures followed in the industry.

It would be possible to quarrel with the statement made in the first part that the code defines recommended working procedures. It does not go into the detail implied in such a claim, not surprisingly given the great variety of enterprises in the rubber industry. What it does is to state clearly the principles that must be the basis of good working procedures. There is also a statement that only personnel fully conversant with the code of practice should handle or transport rubber chemicals, although it is clear from the recommendation on training that what is really meant is that those responsible for these activities should be familiar with the code and ensure that its principles guide the procedures used.

These really are small points, more a demonstration that the reviewer did have a good look at the publication before putting pen to paper than anything else. This is a publication that anyone with managerial responsibility or concern about occupational health in the rubber industry will need to have readily to hand. It has cost a lot in time and effort which the industry obviously thinks is worth while. Others may be encouraged to consider whether there is scope for some similar cooperative venture in their own industries.

JOHN GREEN

Notice

Recent advances in occupational cancer, San Francisco, 5-6 December 1986.

This meeting will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel and will cost \$200 for physicians and \$140 for allied health professionals. Category 1 AMA physician and industrial hygiene credit, number of hours to be announced. For further details contact Postgraduate Programs, Department of Medicine, 505 Parnassus, M979, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143-0120.