either direction, the offspring were less perfect. It would certainly be against the analogy of all nature; and until more trustworthy statistics than have yet been presented, prove it to be the case, we may well doubt whether the marriage of relatives is one of the causes which fill our 'insane and idiot asylums with abortive and diseased minds, and our general hospitals with the wrecks of physical frames.

CARBONATE OF AMMONIA IN MEASLES.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Having seen the carbonate of ammonia used in scarlatina with very satisfactory results, I was induced, about two years ago, to try its effects in measles. Since that time, I have used it extensively in that disease, and with most satisfactory results. For about two months past, this disease has prevailed quite extensively in this vicinity, and in a very severe form. In nearly every case that I have been called upon to attend, I have prescribed the carbonate of ammonia, and in every case where this has been given, the disease has come to a speedy and favorable termination. The medicine should always be given early in the disease, before the eruption appears; or if not, immediately upon its making its appearance.

My usual prescription is: *R. Ammoniae carb., ʒi.; aquæ camph., ʒiiss. M.* Dose, a teaspoonful three times a day, varying the dose according to the age of the patient and other circumstances.

Cedar Falls, Iowa.

S. N. PIERCE, M.D.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 14, 1859.

THE EPIDEMIC OF SMALLPOX.

THE prevalence of smallpox in Boston for several months past, to a very unusual extent, is a fact that ought to attract public attention, and to call forth an expression of opinion as to the means whereby such an epidemic may be prevented in future. Until a year ago, the disease had been almost unknown in Boston for several years. In each of the months of March, April and August, 1858, there was but a single fatal case; whereas, since the beginning of the present year, there have been 32 deaths from this disease. Moreover, the epidemic seems to be on the increase. The first death occurred in February. In March there was 1; in April there were 5; in May, 7; and in June, 18.

It is feared that there are many parents who neglect to have their children vaccinated, notwithstanding every facility that is offered. The City Physician's office is open daily to all who wish to be pro-