which the Loanda carried when she left Liverpool on Saturday, November 30th, for the Gold Coast, were a number of Pasteur filters for the provision of pure water for the troops. These filters had previously been tested by Surgeon-Colonel Taylor and Surgeon-Lieutenant Pratt, and a detachment of the men has been instructed in their method of working, They are capable of providing altogether 6,000 gallons of germ-free water daily. Filters of a similar kind are to be fitted to the hospital ship *Coromandel.—British Medical Journal*.

MUSCE VOLITANTES .- Following the example of Dr. Gowers in the Bowman Lecture of the present year in studying one set of subjective visual sensations, Dr. George M. Gould, of Philadelphia, in a recent number of the Medical News, gives us a classification of musca volitantes, with a minute description of his own muscae and of their behavior under varying physiological states of the eye, and then proceeds to deduce some laws governing the phenomena of muscae, and their bearing on the economy of the eve. Musca are either peripheral, originating in the globe including the optic nerve, or central, originating in the cerebral centres, or a combination of the two. He suggests the use of the word "phoses" for light sensations of whatever kind or color of a positive nature, and "aphoses" for absence or interruption of light sensations, such as scotomata or shadows. Speaking of peripheraphoses, the subdivision under which ordinary muscae volitantes come, the author concludes that the fluid in which these bodies float is contained in a chamber situated just behind the lens, which he calls the aquo-vitreous chamber ; the constant downward movement of the muscae, when seen subjectively, locates this chamber in front of the vertical equator of the eye. The aquo-vitreous chamber plays the important part in the nutrition of the eye of acting as a drainage chamber to the vitreous body for the excretion of the débris of vitreous katabolic change : the fluid contained in it also acts as a lubricant to the movements of accommodation in equalizing and distributing pressure. Further, the author thinks it not unreasonable to suppose that pathological conditions in the fluid may originate pathological conditions in the lens and disturbances in its nutrition, and may be an important factor in the etiology of cataract. Other pathological conditions of this chamber and its contents may lead to a clogging of the sieve of the lens ligament, and so act as the ultimate cause of Myotics like eserine and pilocarpin increase glandular, osmotic, glaucoma. and secretory activity, while mydriatics correspondingly lessen these processes ; although an increase in the amount of aquo-vitreous fluid would seem to increase intraocular pressure, it would also lessen its viscidity, and reduce the clogging of the filtration membrane of the ligament, and consequently the intraocular tension. The author is of opinion that no one has given a satisfactory reason for the uncertain action of iridectomy in curing glaucoma ; according to the theory here proposed removal of a portion of the iris only acts by increasing the porosity of the filtering membrane, but it is not suggested how this is brought about. The author admits that his theory has a very small basis of facts to support it. Before accepting it as a working hypothesis some anatomical proof of the existence of the aquo-vitreous chamber is required ; with