Corpuscles of the Eye

This blue light makes microscopic blood cells in your eye visible.

Try this:

- Gaze into the eyepiece at the blue light. Look for tiny bright specks moving in short bursts against the background.
- Feel your pulse as you watch them. What do you notice?

What's going on?

The bright sparkles are caused by light bending around blood cells moving through capillaries in your eye.

The blood cells are pushed along by the pumping of your heart, so they move in time with your pulse. If your heartbeat speeds up, you'll notice that the rhythm of the specks speeds up as well.

Although the cells are always there, you normally can't see them because of their size. Each one is only a few ten-thousandths of an inch in diameter. The lighting conditions here have made them visible, but you can also sometimes see them against a deep blue sky.