A road in Ife.

“The Yorubans are, perhaps, the cleverest and most talented nation to be found in the whole of West Africa”
“Clad in a gorgeous robe of bright green silk, a magnificent tiara on his brow, and shaded by a huge silken canopy, the Oni, the head of the Holy City of Ifé’s hierarchy, advanced to meet us with a great crowd”
Dresses worn similarly among the Yoruba, Nupe, Hausa and Kanuri. “Some women in pretty headdresses and some men in handsome flowing garments were standing here”
A street view in Ife.

“Cities which, in the sense we, too, give to the term, deserve to be called ‘metropolitan’”
Wooden front door with relief woodcarvings. “Ilifé must have been a unique example of the old-world style of timber architecture in the hundreds of sculptured beams. Ilifé, the ancient, well-preserved and ornamental city it once had been”
Weaving by the men on an horizontal loom in Ilorin.
“The Yorubans have two very different looms. One is used only by men and the shuttle is shot by a treadle”
Shango temple in Ibadan.

“The whole scene, the richly carved columns in front of the gaily-coloured altar, the ancient man in his circle of devotees and the upward-lifting scaffolding towards the front, sustaining the mighty, soaring frame of thatch, was superbly impressive”
“Before us stood a head of marvelous beauty, wonderfully cast in antique bronze, true to the life, incrusted with a patina of glorious dark green. This was, in very deed the Olokun, Atlantic Africa’s Poseidon!”

“Glaze again! We picked up some more. The body of them all was a substance like porcelaine clay, similar to cement, but they were all coated with a glaze of many colours”
Terracotta head excavated in Ife.

“Here we found exquisitely life-like terracotta heads, with clear-cut features and purity of style, differentiated, however, by old-fashioned tattooing marks and the way of dressing the hair”

“Two days later a terracotta head arrived intact. I bought it”

“Eloquent of symmetry, a vitality, a delicacy of form directly reminiscent of ancient Greece”

“The Oni, conducted us in person to his ‘park of monuments’”

“Relics dating from an age and epoch of culture, when the manipulation of quartz and granite was thoroughly understood”