A HISTORY OF SLEEPING SICKNESS IN UGANDA: ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE 1900-1970 struction reacted to the devocation and ours acvers alecoing elokhose commissions to Heat Africa for scientific inventigations. It was not until the administration of Sir H. Hesteth Bell that lend aministrators took the Harvey Gordon Soff A.B., Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1959 M.A., State University of New York, Fredonia, 1965 M.A. Syracuse University, 1967 at les from injected areas and although selected recettlement has accounted since 1966, his 1970 wort of the lakeshore in southern Uyanda remained closed to belitation. The chandened country bas reverted into votes inferred bush and jumple, and only by a congerted effect on the part of the government and the indicahous probles can it be reclaimed. Economic difficulties to topled with local land ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION lequie systems have provented most reportlement schemes Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History in the Graduate School of Syracuse University There is no prevenue 1971 sleeping sickness, and

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Approved Robert J. Gregor

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Sleeping sickness developed into a virulent epidemic and killed over 200,000 people in Uganda. The British administration reacted to the devastation and sent several sleeping sickness commissions to East Africa for scientific investigations. It was not until the administration of Sir H. Hesketh Bell that local administrators took the initiative and tried to stop the man-fly contact cycle.

In 1908 Bell began a policy of evacuation from infected areas and although selected resettlement has occurred since 1920, in 1970 most of the lakeshore in southern Uganda remained closed to habitation. The abandoned country has reverted into tsetse infested bush and jungle, and only by a concerted effort on the part of the government and the indigenous peoples can it be reclaimed. Economic difficulties coupled with local land tenure systems have prevented most resettlement schemes from succeeding.

There is no preventive for sleeping sickness, and once the disease has entered the central nervous system it is terminal. Medical treatment is imperative in the first stages and if treated early, the patient may be cured. Local dispensaries in infected districts are

important, but the government has not appropriated sufficient funds to adequately enforce remedial programs.

The most thorough and least expensive method of curtailing sleeping sickness is to supervise concentrated settlements in fly infested areas, clear the land surrounding the new villages by selective agricultural enterprises, and maintaining periodic medical examinations. Settlement combined with clearance will alter the habitat favored by tsetse flies, and since human habitation often results in game removal, the fly will be deprived of food and shelter.

DISSERTATION

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History in the Graduate School of Syraquae University,

June 1971

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