During the first decade of the twentieth century, sleeping sickness developed into a terrible epidemic and killed over 100,000 people in northern and central Africa. The 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 Robert Sherriff that local administrators took the initiative and tried to slow down the spread of infection.

*ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION*

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

*June 1971*

Robert G. Gregory
During the first decade of the twentieth century, 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 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE 1955-1970
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.

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Approved

Date