

**Dean, Emily Washburn. Excerpt from “Reform Department Report, April 22, 1914.”  
Chicago History Museum. Chicago Woman’s Club Records. Box 23, Folder 3.**

“...From the beginning of its activity the Committee [on the State School for Girls at Geneva] has been concerned by the presence in the School of such a large number of distinctly defective girls and feels that the return of these girls to society at their majority constitutes a menace grave enough to demand special legislation. The present law releases at twenty-one the girl whose feeble-mindedness has already made her a delinquent, with the probability that she will become a source of moral and physical contamination. Permanent custodial care for the feeble-minded woman during the child-bearing period seems to be the requisite “next step.” The Committee is gathering data for propaganda purposes and when the material is in shape for use intends calling a conference of interested persons and organizations of the city and state and organizing a state-wide campaign for the enactment of such legislation. In the meantime an effort will be made to make admittance to the State School for the Feeble-minded at Lincoln a matter of legal commitment, there-by preventing the patients from being removed at the pleasure of their family or friends without regard to the welfare of either the patient or society.”