

Excerpts from “Reform Department Annual Report, April 1901.” Chicago History Museum. Chicago Woman’s Club Records. Box 21, Folder 3.

“The Juvenile Court, our pet philanthropy, made possible by the noble efforts of this and other clubs, which has been grafted onto the Circuit Court, is, perhaps, our greatest achievement in Charity lines. So potent a factor is it in saving dependent children, that it is estimated that 85% are saved; where under the old regime but 5% were reformed. The Juvenile Court bill has already been copied by 5 states, and is pronounced by experts the best law ever enacted. As a consequence, the Jail School, from which we have had monthly reports, has had a much smaller attendance than heretofore.

The great need now is a State School or Reformatory for boys under 16, corresponding to the Geneva School for girls. The Commerical Club stands ready to secure a site for such an Institution, and if the bill now pending in the legislature asking for an appropriation sufficient to erect suitable buildings, becomes a law, Illinois will compare favorably with any State in the Union in its care for its children.

The Chairman of the Committee on Probation work has, through her own efforts, paid for 3 of the 6 probation officers employed, and at the last meeting of the Department another member pledged the salary of one more officer.

“...This Committee [on Legislation] has been asked to look after children (little girls) who sing and dance in Saloons. A request from the Philanthropy Department that the Committee interest itself in legislation against certain crimes (R & I) which come before the Protective Agency, will be complied with.

The Committee to visit County Institutions, has labored in behalf of the children at Dunning, and has secured the privilege of removing boys from there to Glenwood, which is a step in the right direction.”