We are using the budget system of handling finances. Most of our women have been careless, extravagant, and utterly devoid of the sense of the value of money. Their incomes, honestly earned, are not in proportion to their expenditures, if they are given the initiative. They spend thoughtlessly, disregarding their earning capacity, and they have an abnormal desire for things which are entirely out of their reach socially and financially. We must combat these inclinations, and in this respect we find the budget system most helpful. Purchasing clothing on the installment plan is absolutely prohibited, for in many cases the girls have done this very thing prior to their commitment, and because of pressing financial obligations incurred in such a way, have used dishonest means for meeting these payments. Every paroled woman must save a certain amount of what she earns and deposit it in some savings bank. The bank book is sent to us regularly with the monthly report. Some feel this is a great hardship, but we insist, and we have never heard any regrets when their parole is over and they again become free, that they have some money on which they may begin their own activities without our supervision.

Those who are interested in continuing their school work are permitted to do so by attending night school.

We try to find suitable recreational outlets, but this seems to be one of our most difficult problems. While in the institution, the girls live in close contact with one another, all have had common experiences, and are therefore sympathetic associates. When they go out on parole, they miss this companionship, and for the first few weeks are very lonesome. Most do domestic work and as maids are not considered an integral part of the family. The stigma of the institution rests upon them and many are afraid to mingle with strangers for fear the intimate parts of their lives may become known. Some join Y. W. C. A. classes, others affiliate with their respective churches, and we encourage them to do so.

The time girls are kept on parole varies. The minimum time is usually a year, the maximum, as you know, is the expiration of sentence. It has been our experience that early paroles are desirable when circumstances permit, especially in the case of young offenders. In other words, for the younger women and those who have had no previous criminal record, we believe that a shorter stay in the institution and a longer parole period is more beneficial to the individual. The reason for the increase in the length of parole is to continue the restraining influence which apparently exists under parole supervision. To the person who wants to make good, parole is very easy, for the rules demand nothing more than living honestly, decently, temperately and law-abidingly. To the person who wants to put things over and who counts the days until her discharge, nothing is harder than parole, for she is moving about under a cloak of deceit, working under-handedly, with the illusion of the institution glaring at her mockingly every time she makes. The old offenders do not look at parole favorably or zealously for that reason, so it is the younger violator who welcomes the opportunity which parole affords.

As might be expected we, too, have had parole violators, but none were ever involved in another crime and all were returned to the Reformatory because they had not observed the rules under which they were supposed to live.

It is said the success of a correctional institution is estimated by the percentage of so-called reformations achieved. What are these reformations?
The State of Minnesota has grasped much of the vision already, as the laws concerning the feeble-minded indicate. Already there is a realization that a person with the mind of a child needs an understanding guardian, and machinery is in running order whereby such a guardian may be assigned in the person of the Board of Control. Assuming the responsibilities, the State yet realizes here that, although it cannot evade them, it must delegate to local persons the actual planning for and supervision of feeble-minded persons committed to its guardianship. It is here that state and county responsibilities dovetail in the creation of child welfare boards. The State has made the law according to which the commitment must be secured, but its execution is left to county officials. After the commitment the State is the legal guardian, but it is the local representatives in the person of the welfare boards who must supervise. They have the authority of the State, but it is also because they are local persons, knowing local problems, and perhaps prejudices, that they are able to do so well. It is the welfare board which recommends whether a person committed should be in the institution or whether the house can cooperate with the family and supervise outside. The responsibility must be local even after the commitment.

But not only has Minnesota realized her responsibility in making possible official supervision for many where personal guardianship has been ineffective; it has also taken upon the Eugenic aspect, and we have a state law prohibiting the marriage of these persons. Again the State furnishes the machinery, but it must be locally operated. If local opinion does not force the clerks of court to force the necessity of compliance, only their own personal attitudes towards the question will govern their action. So far the State seems waiting for public opinion to crystallize before making a law which carries with it a means of enforcement.

When I say that the State must wait for public opinion to crystallize before making a law, I am implying that after all the community is back of the law. Laws are worth little unless backed by public opinion. But sometimes a community does not approve of a law and so enforces it poorly. Would it not be better that a wrong law were passed to make known to the State the disapproval of the law? If your community really has exceptions to the law, then probably the law is wrong. Study and see what seems to be exceptions are really so. If study reveals that the law is wrong, fight it and not its application in your community.

The State has glimpsed the fact that this is a problem which must be recognized and dealt with before the age of marriage, and it has encouraged the proper education of feeble-minded children by adequately subsidizing special classes for their instruction, so that in proportion to population Minnesota today leads at the states in the Union in its education of the feeble-minded in special classes. Had this been left entirely to local initiative, what would have been our status now? We all must realize that it is largely due to the fact that the State acknowledged its responsibility, through delegating the local school systems to carry out the project, that special classes have increased so wonderfully. This past year 40 cities or towns maintained classes with a total enrollment of 2,611 children. Minnesota has made the initial organization of special classes more of a state problem than most states. It is not left entirely to the judgment of local authorities, whether or not they shall have a special class and who shall be enrolled in it. No community is required to have one, but neither may a community require one for children enrolled unless approved by the Research Bureau maina...