

Chicago 10, Illinois

Sept. 5, 1948

Dr. H. Clay Chenault
University of Arkansas.
Fayetteville, Ark.

Dear Dr. Chenault:

It was with considerable approval that I read in news reports of the admittance to the University of Arkansas medical school of Edith Mae Inby, colored student. There are two personal reasons for my satisfaction.

A few years ago I was traveling through Arkansas by Greyhound bus. At 1:00 A.M. the bus broke down in the colored section of a small town. The weather was hot and humid and the passengers were thirst-parched. No water was near so 16 white travelers, myself included, eagerly crowded into a colored store and drank cold pop. I could not help thinking about the fate of any thirst-tortured colored man who would try to buy a drink of soda in a white-owned place in Arkansas!

A few months ago I accidentally (of course) caught a fungus infection of my leg. It covered quite an area; a pin-head type of "ringworm". I had read in a colored magazine (in the Chicago Public Library) of a negro doctor who had invented a cure for the condition. Local remedies failing, I wrote to this colored physician. He took time out of a heavily crowded schedule of police surgeon, school board doctor and private practitioner, to write me a friendly letter of instructions how to use the treatment, a supply of which he sent me C.S.D., as I had requested. My skin ailment responded to the stuff and cleared up in a week. You may bet I shall never forget it. This colored doctor did not enquire whether I was white or black.

I have seen negro hoodlums and white-race-haters in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Houston, San Francisco and scores of other cities. But I have met worthy colored folk as well, and for their sakes I hope all medical schools will admit colored students. Doctors white or colored are needed by people of all colors and needs in the U.S.A. Accident and disease recognize no race lines. A good physician is an asset everywhere. I congratulate the University of Arkansas on admitting Edith Mae Inby who appears, in current news-magazine picture, to be an intelligent, attractive person and to whom I wish the best of luck in her profession.

Sincerely,
R. R. Le Rougemont