

EDITH IRBY GOES TO SCHOOL

University of Arkansas admits first Negro medical student

Early one morning, as though in a dream, Edith Mae Irby, 21, suddenly found herself standing alone in a hallway, surrounded by white students. It was the start of her first day as the only Negro in the University of Arkansas Medical School—or, for that matter, in any white medical school in the whole South. As she stood there indecisively, waiting for class to begin and wondering if it had not all been a mistake, the camera caught her. The result was this tense and sensitive picture (*above*) which appears in this month's *Ebony*, a Negro picture magazine.

Edith was admitted to Arkansas from Knoxville College on her academic standing alone. She placed 28th out of 230 students in her aptitude test. Her education is being financed by the *State Press*, a Negro newspaper in Little Rock, and by proud alumni of her Hot Springs high school. Now she ranks in the top half of her class and is accepted casually by her classmates. But she must eat meals alone and live alone with her aunt.