

SHE HOPES TO BE PEDIATRICIAN IN SOUTH

EDITH IRBY hopes to become a pediatrician and practice in her native South where today there is not a single certified Negro pediatrician. She has been working towards that goal since her early years in the resort city of Hot Springs where she "saw many suffering people come to regain their health."

"It was then, while I was still in high school, that I made up my mind to become a doctor," she says. "By studying pediatrics it is possible that I can learn to prevent sickness that occurs in later life. If we can build strong children, we will have healthy men and women."

While her admission to the University of Arkansas has virtually assured her goal, her education was not always easy. Born on a farm near Conway, Arkansas, she saw some tough days after her father died when she was 8. Her mother moved the family to Hot Springs, where she became a cook to support

her children. In high school Edith won high honors and headed for Knoxville College in Tennessee, where she had a scholarship for four years. She won her degree there at the age of 20.

Although she had doubts about being admitted to the University of Arkansas, she took the medical school test.

Pending her admission she went to live with an aunt in Chicago and attended summer classes at Northwestern University.

Only when a press association reporter called her long distance from Little Rock and broke the news to her did she learn about her admission to medical school in her home state. Her first statement, after getting the news, was: "There may be a little resentment among the older people, but young students my age have very little prejudice in Arkansas or anywhere else."