Cambridge urchins attend classes at Tech during summer session

Thirty-one Cambridge urchins received a first-hand look at the world of sports at the M.I.T. Science Day Camp. Nearly forty M.I.T. faculty members and a full-time staff of ten students were engaged in this experimental five-week program from June 28 to July 8.

The children, all seventh and eighth graders chosen in cooperation with the Cambridge Athletic Association and Settlements, attended the Camp from 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Each student takes two of four courses: biology, physics, measurements, and ethics.

Courses were run informally supervised by an M.I.T. professor with emphasis on individual project work. Each group of four students had one of the M.I.T. faculty members act as school teacher. The children were taught, but their individual talents and interests were used as a base for learning in the courses.

The children were taken to the newer school or to the athletics fields, for example, for baseball or track. They were taught how to keep score, how to measure, and how to analyze the outcome of a game. Many of the children did not have any previous experience in any of these subjects, so the teachers found they had to start from scratch.

The children were also given some time to do experiments. One experiment was to find out how fast a car could go on a given surface. Another experiment was to find out how far a ball could be thrown. These experiments were designed to teach the children the basics of science, but they also gave the children a chance to learnsomething that they might not have learned in school.

One of the children, a boy named John, was the son of a M.I.T. professor. He had been to the Science Day Camp before, but this year he was one of the children who had to stay home because he was too old. He was very disappointed, but he said he would come next year.

Another child, a girl named Mary, was one of the children who had to leave because she was sick. She was very sad, but she said she would come next year. She had been to the Science Day Camp before, but she had to leave because she was too sick to come.

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