

QUOTATION

SAMUEL JOHNSON ON NATURE AND NURTURE

I do not deny, Sir, but there is some original difference in minds; but it is nothing in comparison of what is formed by education. We may instance the science of *numbers*, which all minds are equally capable of attaining; yet we find a prodigious difference in the powers of different men, in that respect, after they are grown up, because their minds have been more or less exercised in it; and I think the same cause will explain the difference of excellence in other things, gradations admitting always some difference in the first principles.

From: Boswell, J. (1887). *Boswell's life of Johnson* (G. B. Hill, Ed.). Oxford: Oxford University, pp. 436-437. (Original work published 1791.)

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