

The Solicitor-General: Would it make any difference in your judgment, as to whether the public had accepted it or not, that the public *did or did not know* substantially the character of the article in fact?

Mr. Schidrowitz: No; I think not. *I think the public know nothing about it.* I do not know whether you would like to have my view as to what the public generally do think, because I have been at some little trouble to try and find out, not by direct questioning, but by leading them on; and I might say, to give an illustration of that, a neighbor of mine in London, who is a lawyer and a highly educated man, when this controversy of ours was going on, and columns on the subject were appearing in the papers—had been for months, for years I might say—met me one morning, and he said: "What is this 'still' whisky I hear about?" And all he appeared to have inferred from that whole business was that there seemed to his mind to be a "still" variety of whisky and a "sparkling" variety of whisky. That was all that was conveyed to his mind by the word "still." In fact, *the only opinion the public ever have about WHISKY*, if you talk to them, is that *they jocularly refer to FUSEL OIL. That is the only definite fact I ever came across.*¹

Mr. Hough: To what would you attribute the characteristic flavors of such whiskies?

Mr. Schidrowitz: Which whiskies?

Mr. Hough: Our so-called STRAIGHT WHISKIES, aged in a charred barrel.

Mr. Schidrowitz: The *only characteristic flavor* that I have been able to ascertain is what is *due to the charred cask*—the flavor obtained from the cask; * * * To my palate, I should say practically the whole of it was due to that. That Rye Whisky that I tasted here yesterday—that *new*, white Rye Whisky—tasted to me like an Irish Whisky. When they have been in the charred cask the flavor is *entirely different*.

The Solicitor-General: It rather struck me that the flavor which I rather gathered to be characteristic of the charred barrel was so predominant as to *swamp almost everything else*.

¹Contrast this with Doctor Wilby's ridiculous version of the public conception of WHISKY (Chapter XII—question 2).