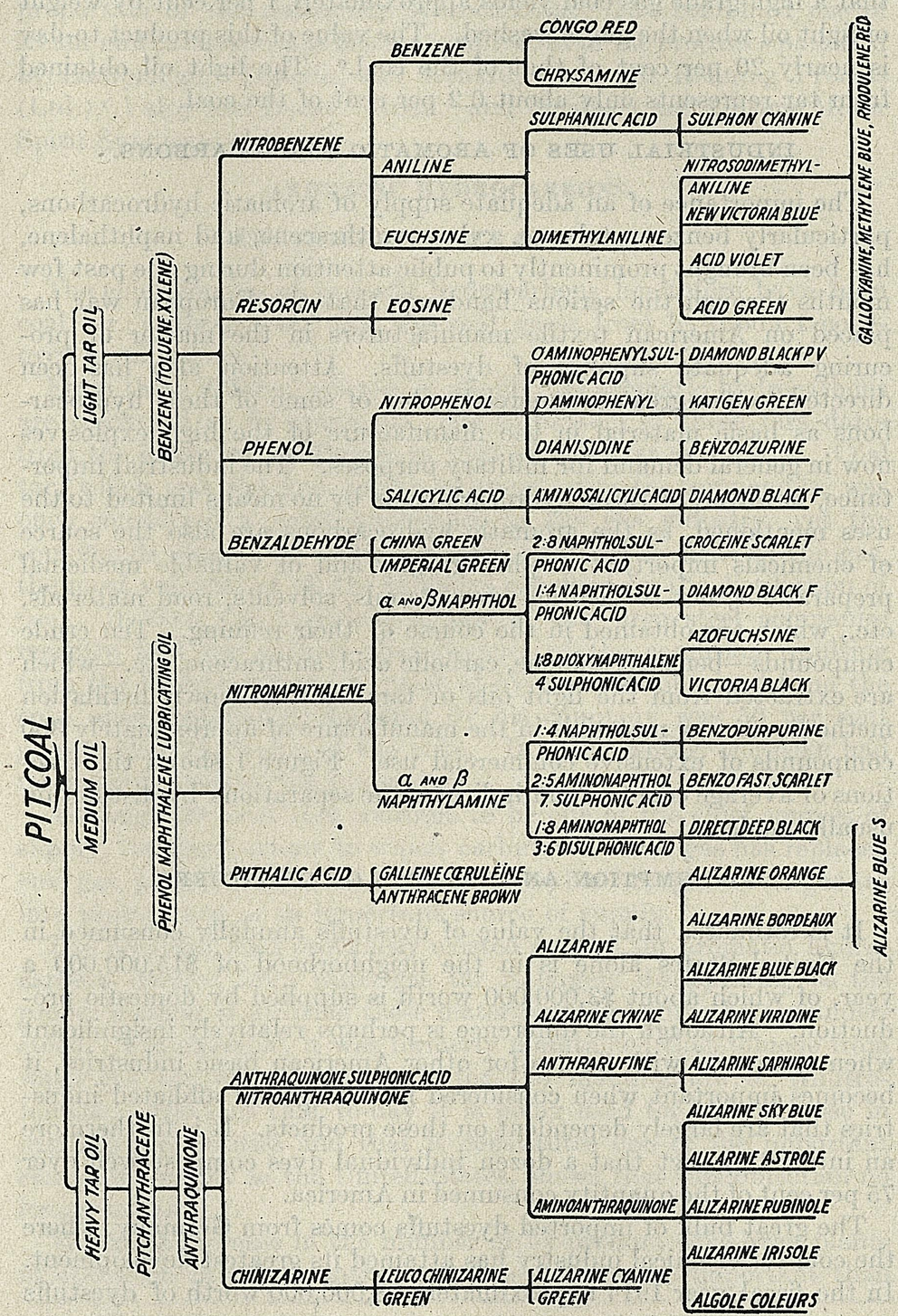

FIGURE 1.—Chart showing some of the products obtainable from the destructive distillation of coal.

was imported from foreign countries,[a] of which Germany supplied nearly $7,000,000 worth. The balance of the imports came from Switzerland, Great Britain, and a few other countries. During the same year, the total consumption of dyestuffs throughout the world amounted to over $90,000,000, of which Germany furnished approximately 75 per cent and in addition furnished over one-half of the material needed to make up the balance.

Germany has controlled not alone the American dyestuff market, but also the dyestuff markets of practically the entire world. Even such countries as England and France, with highly centralized industries and large production of the crude materials necessary for the manufacture of dyestuffs, have been dependent on Germany for their supplies.

CAPACITY OF UNITED STATES TO PRODUCE DYESTUFF BASES FROM COAL.

The potential output of the United States, owing to its vast coal resources and extensive manufacturing interests, is such as to assure ample supplies of the crude materials necessary for the manufacture of dyestuffs, provided an industry be established capable of utilizing the production. During the year 1913, for example, over 69,000,000 tons of coal was coked[b] and approximately 600,000,000 gallons of oil cracked for carbureting water gas. On the basis of average yields this amount of coal and oil was capable of furnishing approximately 550,000,000 gallons of tar and 120,000,000 gallons of light oil.[c] Such quantities of raw material would be more than adequate for the production of greater quantities of coal-tar products than are used in this country.

In the years 1912 and 1913, only about 25 per cent of the total quantity of coke produced was manufactured in by-product ovens.[d] The percentage of by-product ovens to the total number of coke ovens has been rather largely increased since then, and recently a large number of new by-product plants have been built because of the high prices obtained for the recoverable products. The new by-product plants, which were in the process of erection during the early part of 1915, were estimated to increase the output of light oils approximately 14,000,000 gallons a year, so that it is probable that by-product coke ovens are producing to-day nearly 50 per cent of the total coke manufactured in the United States.[e]

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[a] Foreign commerce and navigation of the United States, 1914: U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 1915, p. xvii.

[b] Parker, E. W., Manufacture of coke in 1913: Mineral Resources U. S. for 1913, U. S. Geol. Survey. 1914, p. 471.

[c] Porter, H. C., Op. cit., p. 7.

[d] Porter, H. C., Op. cit., p. 7.

[e] Porter, H. C., Unpublished report.