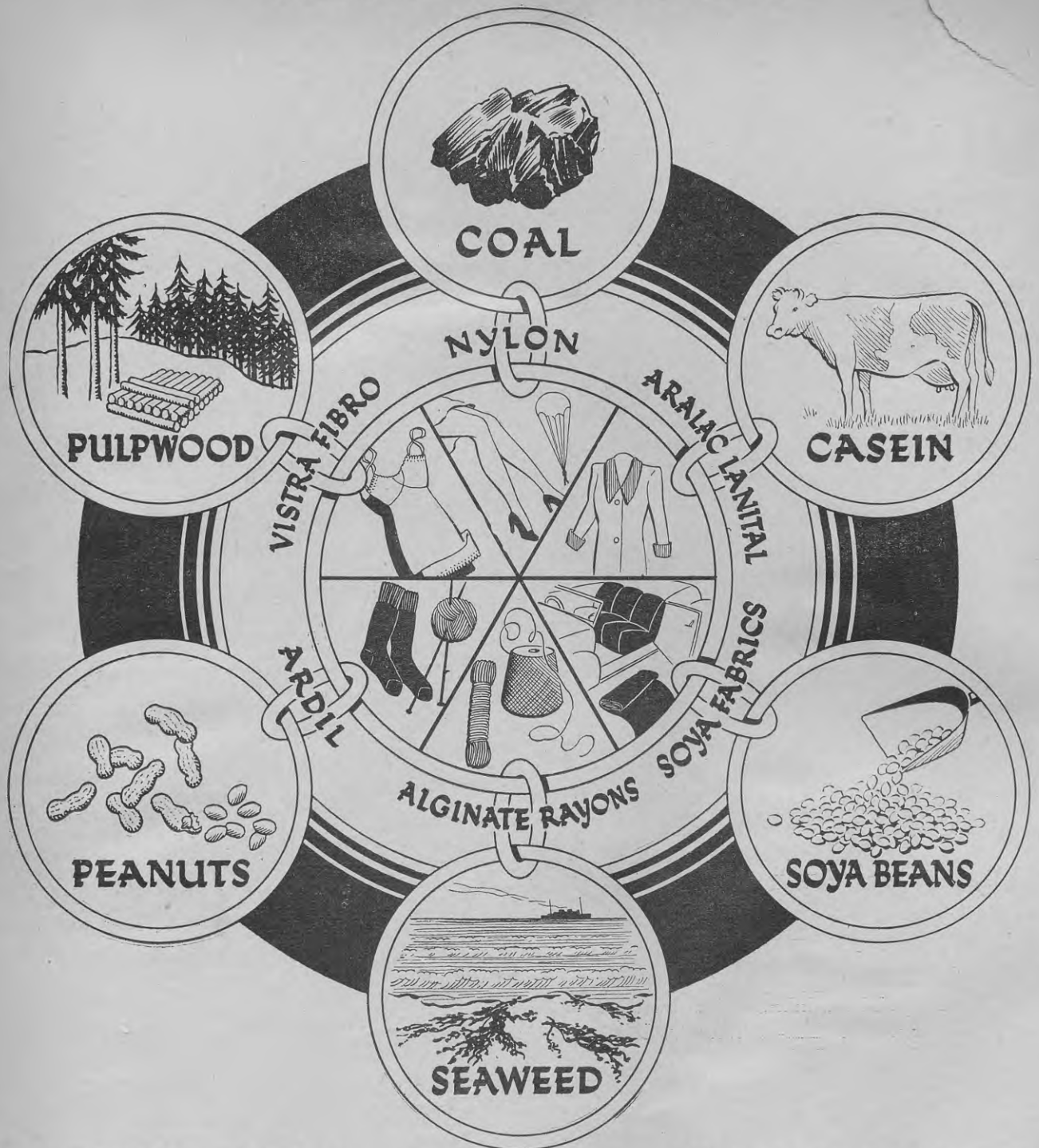


# ARTIFICIAL AND SYNTHETIC FIBRES



**P**RACTICALLY all artificial fibres have one feature in common—the raw material is first reduced to the form of a viscous liquid and then squirted through tiny nozzles, or spinnerets, into a coagulating bath where the thin fibres harden immediately. All characteristics of the fibre are under close control, and a highly-standardised product results. The fibres produced are originally in long, continuous filaments, and may be used in this form, but are more commonly cut up into short bundles—known as “staple fibre”—in which

form they can readily be blended with wool. Cellulose, usually derived from wood, forms the raw material for by far the largest proportion of staple fibres, which go by such names as “Vistra,” “Fibro,” etc. Proteins derived from milk, soya beans, peanuts, etc., are the basis of another group of fibres, which are closer to wool in chemical make-up and general behaviour than the cellulose fibres, but still fall short of the genuine article in several important characteristics. Nylon is an example of a true synthetic fibre where the actual chemical molecule has been synthesised from simpler materials.