get some restrictions imposed concerning the use of the territories. The supervision of the mandates passed to the Mandates Commission, and Japan, like all mandatories, was required to present an annual report to the commission. Japan met the requirements for a few years, but after the Manchurian affair in 1931, suspicion passed to belief that she was developing certain harbours beyond commercial needs. All casual travellers were excluded from the islands and any admitted officially were kept to defined itineraries. By the time the Japanese left the League in 1933, they could see plainly that their tenure was not going to be challenged. There would have been little support even in the United States, for a war over the Mandates at any time between 1933 and 1941.

Public opinion in America since the attack on Pearl Harbour has been almost unanimous that the mandated isles should in the future be permanently available for American bases, either by transfer of sovereignty, or by agreements for co-operative United Nations use. A commentator in the "New York Post," in 1943, declared plaintively "Why should anyone want to give us bases? American security is not the world's problem." He was pessimistic and he was wrong. There is now, no doubt that when the General Assembly of the United Nations considers the question of the disposal of enemy dependencies it will not regard American security as a separate issue, but as an important factor in Pacific security and a part of the general problem of world security.

Speeding Up The Typist

A typist has created a new world speed record of 180 words a minute, exceeding the previous performance by 31 words. A newly designed typewriter with a radically altered keyboard, made the feat possible. The inventor of the machine, Lieutenant-Commander Dvorak, of the United States Navy Department, who is also Director of Educational Research at Washington University, has puzzled over the typewriting alphabet for 20 years, trying to devise a keyboard system that would permit more of the work to be done by the operator's right hand.

It is calculated that using the new typewriter, the right hand will do 56 per cent. of the labour against 43 per cent. possible on standard machines at present in use. The work of each index finger will be more evenly distributed, being reduced in the case of the right hand index finger from 21½ per cent. to 18½ per cent. The left hand index finger will do little more than 14 per cent. as against 23 per cent. formerly.

Lieutenant-Commander D v o r a k ' s machine is now being used with great success in the Navy Department. If it is generally adopted by the commercial world there will need to be some revision in the methods of tuition for typists. The "Q" row of the standard keyboard is replaced by one which reads " ? . ; P Y F G C R L " This has three alphabetical letters less than the normal. The "A" row includes all the vowels and reads " A O E U I D H T N S ". The arrangement of the b o t t o m r o w is " ½ Q J K X B M W V Z ".

The world's first typewriter is believed to have been invented in the early eighteenth century. Queen Ann granted a patent to a certain Henry Mill, but he did not put his machine into production. An American, William Burt, built a machine in 1829, which he called the typograph, but it was destroyed by fire.

The first typewriter to gain general favour was one invented in 1873. It had four rows of keys, and was designed for two-finger typing only.