

necessitates such a price for such services. Permit me, for I want to go back to the Club, to point out a few defects which may easily be remedied.

In the first place, what imaginable end is served by punching meal coupons when no allowance is made at the end of the month for unpunched spaces? Does the management fear that any man will eat more than three meals a day? I do not wish to say that the coupons are not well punched, but that it is an absolute waste of energy and so of money.

Again, a boarder may miss half a dozen meals per month, but if he takes a friend to dine with him he must pay cash instead of having an extra punch put in his coupon. In my own case, at the end of a month I had seven unused spaces in my coupon but had paid for three meals for my guests.

Once more, does it not seem reasonable that it is not for naught that two rooms have been vacant all fall at the Club? Would not a lodging-house keeper put on her thinking cap and finally concluded to lower the prices? Two vacant rooms, even if worth much less than the absurd prices demanded for one of them at least, is a very serious drain.

Lastly, and most important of all—let the price be lowered, say a dollar or a dollar and a half per month, and we will hear no more of vacant tables. We will be back in scores, and the Committee will be in a quandary where to put us. Not only so, but the large numbers will make the Club far more successful financially than it is now even though the price be reduced.

LEMUEL ROBERTSON.

Note.—This communication reached us only after the FORTNIGHTLY had been "made up." We are glad that our notice of the Club's affairs has provoked criticism, and if there be many subscribers of Mr. Robertson's way of thinking it would be interesting to hear from them.—Ed. FORTNIGHTLY.

## BOARDING-HOUSE GEOMETRY.

### DEFINITIONS AND AXIOMS.

All boarding-houses are the same boarding-house.

Boarders in the same boarding-house and on the same flat are equal to one another.

A single room is that which has no parts and no magnitude.

The landlady of a boarding-house is a parallelogram—that is, an oblong and angular figure, which cannot be described, but which is equal to anything.

A wrangle is the disinclination of two boarders to each other that meet together but are not on the same flat.

All the rooms being taken, a single room is said to be a double room.

### POSTULATES AND PROPOSITIONS.

A pie may be produced any number of times.

The landlady can be reduced to her lowest terms by a series of propositions.

A bee line can be made from any boarding-house to any other boarding-house.

The clothes of a boarding-house bed, though produced ever so far both ways, will not meet.

Any two meals at a boarding-house are together less than two square meals.

If from the opposite ends of a boarding-house a line be drawn passing through all the rooms in turn, then the stovepipe which warms the boarders will lie within that line.

On the same bill and on the same side of it there should not be two charges for the same thing.

If there be two boarders on the same flat, and the amount of side of the one be equal to the amount of side of the other, each to each, and the wrangle between one boarder and the landlady be equal to the wrangle between the landlady and the other, then shall the weekly bills of the two boarders be equal also, each to each.

For if not, let one bill be the greater.

Then the other bill is less than it might have been—which is absurd.

STEPHEN LEACOCK in *N. Y. Truth*.



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