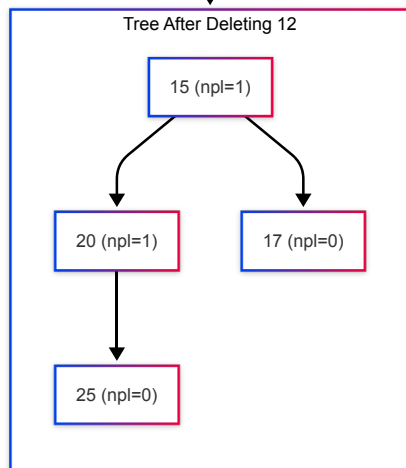


Delete root 12 - merge(15, 17)



Merge Explanation:

Deleted root 12, merging left (15) and right (17).

15 < 17, and 15.right is null - 17 becomes right child of 15.

Left subtree (20-25) unchanged. No further merges or swaps required.

$npl(15) = 1 + \min(1, 0) = 1$ .  
Leftist property preserved.