

## BARBARITY.

### GERMAN TREATMENT OF AN AUSTRALIAN.

NEWCASTLE, Monday.

Joseph Vial, son of Mr. Edwin Vial, of Newcastle, was in Germany when the war broke out, and as a result of the inhuman treatment he received there he is now in a hospital in England suffering from consumption.

Mr. Vial was about 20 years of age. He had been in Germany for two or three years studying music. In September last, shortly after the war broke out, his parents received a cablegram stating that he was a prisoner of war, but was well. Later events led them to believe that the cablegram was not sent by their son.

From September up to last week his parents had received no news from or about him. Towards the end of last week letters were received from friends of Mr. Vial in England, stating that his son was suffering from consumption. He had, in some way, escaped from Germany, and got across to England through Holland, with many other refugees.

To-day Mr. Vial received a letter from his son, stating that he had been in a cell for five months. There was only one window in the cell, and that was near the top. During the whole of the time of his imprisonment he had not seen daylight. He stated that his health was now improving.